

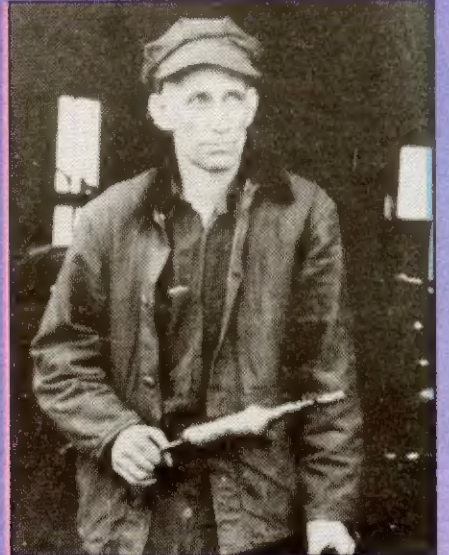
VALLEY Optimist MAGAZINE

FREE

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 20

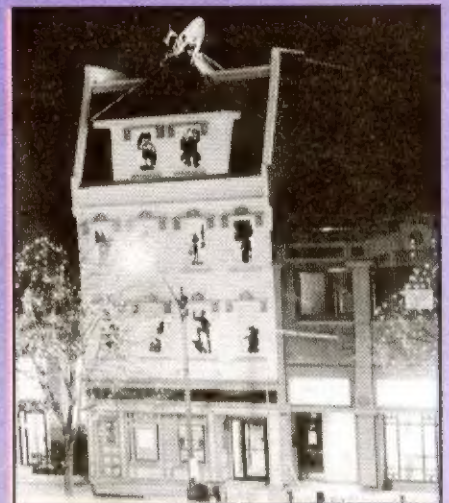
DECEMBER 14

DECEMBER 27



10 UNDER WATER

There's a lot of history buried beneath the placid surface of the Quabbin Reservoir.



15 IT'S NOT JUST COMICS

Just follow the gargoyle to the new home of Kevin Eastman's Words and Pictures Museum in Northampton, four floors of art and fun for everyone.

CALENDAR PICKS



■ **CHARLES NEVILLE**, legendary jazz-influenced saxophonist and Neville Brother, makes a rare area appearance at the Iron Horse on Friday, December 16, at 7 p.m.

■ FRIDAY DECEMBER 16

Eshu Bumpus and his vocal jazz stylings are accompanied by guitarist Doug MacMillan at the Montague Book Mill at 8 p.m.

■ SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

Scud Mountain Boys envelop the room with their "suicidally-slow country-pop" at the Bay State Cabaret in Northampton with special solo acoustic guest Tom Shea. 21+.

■ SUNDAY DECEMBER 18

Andrea Nathenson performs at the North Star in Northampton at 7:30 p.m.

■ WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21

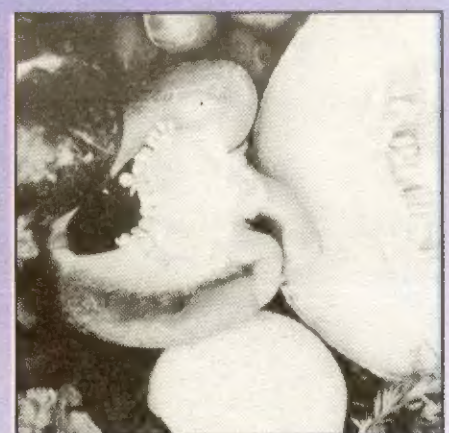
Under the House comes over for a visit to the Northampton Brewery from 10 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

■ FRIDAY DECEMBER 23

Gutterbirds, back by popular demand, bring their original vocal and guitar sounds to the Black Sheep Café in Amherst at 8 p.m.

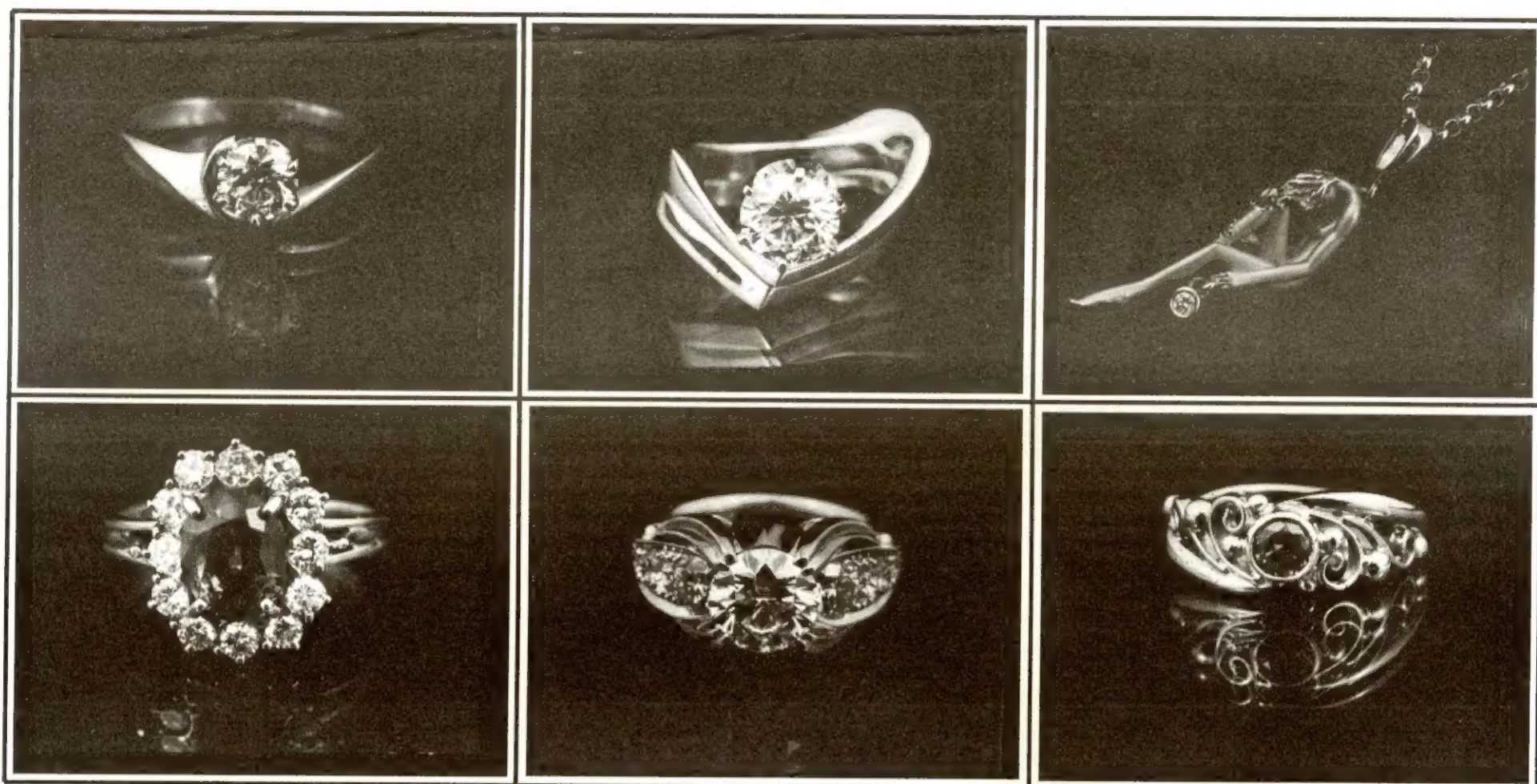
■ WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28

Gay and Lesbian Comedy Night, featuring comedy improvisation by Schtick and Stones, is at the Iron Horse in Northampton at 7 p.m.



20 WILL WORK WITH FOOD

The unsung heroes and heroines of the food business speak out, as *The Valley Optimist* goes behind the scenes with Valley caterers.



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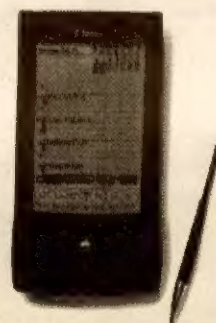
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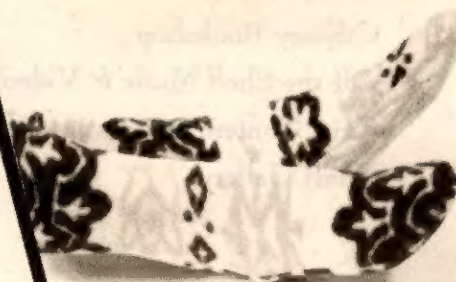
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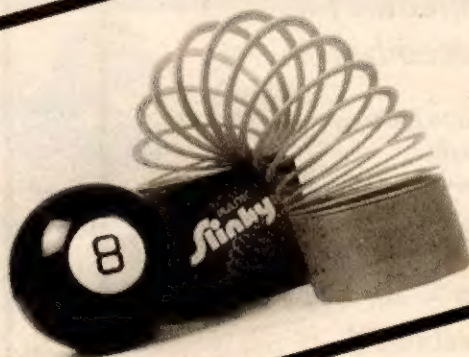
Faces

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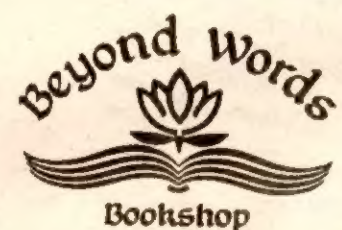
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Will Work With Food

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On Our Cover

"Galileo/Blues" by Chuck Stern. Oil on linen.

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GLIMPSES OF A LOST VALLEY

Former Quabbin residents recall a past, submerged
by Helen Reilly

Some say that when the Quabbin is low, you can take a boat out and find places where white church steeples peer up through the green water. The story of four towns lost in creating the reservoir conjures scenes of a simpler New England, crystallized and shimmering, Atlantis-like, beneath the Quabbin's calm surface. "At one time a story started around that they left something in Enfield and you could still hear the bells toll," says Doris Cargill, a former resident. "Well, that's not true. They flattened everything."

Each week, in a decade-long tradition known as "Tuesday Tea," former residents of the towns of Enfield, Prescott, Dana, and Greenwich gather at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Over coffee and snacks they exchange jokes and memories and news of one another's lives. Les Campbell, who, with his wife Terry, started the Visitor Center in 1984, says they got the idea for the Tuesday Teas when former residents kept coming in to inquire after one another. Since the teas began, says Campbell, "They haven't missed a beat." Between twenty and forty people come regularly, some driving an hour or more. "Nothing better to do," says Chester Hanks, 84, who comes up from Connecticut with his wife, Ethel, and brother, Roy. It was through the Tuesday Teas that Roy rediscovered his childhood sweetheart, Gladys (now deceased), whom he married in 1985. The farm the brothers grew up on is gone, remembered by the Hanks Picnic Area overlooking the reservoir. Thus continues what remains of a lively, close-knit community that was dispersed over a half-century ago.

A CHANGING HUMAN LANDSCAPE

The Quabbin Reservation, containing 81,000 acres of water and protected land, extends 18 miles from New Salem and Petersham in the north to Belchertown and Ware in the south. Beloved by local residents and naturalists for its unspoiled beauty and wildlife, the Quabbin was created in the 1930s for the practical purpose of providing clean water to Boston's exploding population. Today it is part of a system supplying water to more than 2.2 million people, most in the eastern part of the state, at a rate of 151 gallons per person per day.

An ambitious piece of engineering, the Quabbin was, in 1938, the largest drinking-water supply reservoir ever constructed — an impressive example of "American ingenuity" and the technological advances that were changing the face of the country. To lawmakers in Boston, the Swift River Valley was an ideal location for such a project. A natural basin generously watered by the Swift River and its tributaries, the valley was home to a rural population of 2,500 unlikely to pose much resistance to their plan.

With the passage of the Swift River Act in 1927, the Commonwealth began buying up property under the auspices of the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission [MDWSC]. Lois Barnes was seven years old. "Prescott was the smallest and youngest town — mainly farms. Farmers generally left early, she recalls, because of the time involved in building up a new farm. "Practically no families were left [in Prescott] by 1930."

At that time her family moved to Greenwich. Although her father was himself a successful farmer and lumber man, both her parents were officials of Prescott, and needed to stay in the area to tend the business of a town that would not be declared officially dead until 1938, when all four towns were disincorporated. "There was no time I can remember that we weren't talking about moving." She remembers being moved from school to school as small country schools closed their doors forever. "It was very sad. Your friends were moving out and there was a certain amount of anxiety — where are you going to move, and when?"

In 1927, the Hanks family was the first to leave Enfield. Chester Hanks, then 17, recalls that the family lost several thousand dollars in the transition to a new farm in Connecticut. "They'd go around and appraise your place, give you about half of what it's worth. It was a dirty trick." As the oldest son, Hanks was obliged to work for many years to prevent the family from losing their new farm.

Barnes remembers her father as "bitter" about the fact that, though he received a fair price for his property, he was not compensated for the value of a business he had spent his life in building. Some, like Lucile Thresher's mother, went to court to dispute the appraisal of their property. "She asked for twice as much as she wanted," recalls Lucile, who grew up in Webster (along with sister Gladys) not far from the Hanks'. "She asked for \$16,000 and she got \$8,000." A few refused to sell. Eventually the state took their property by eminent domain.

But Harry Thresher, Lucile's husband of 56 years, thinks most people were satisfied with their price and were able to relocate without much hardship. "It's just the point they had to move they didn't like," he says. "I think in many cases the farmers who moved were better off. Like farms that had electricity. They had better roads. Markets were handier. In Greenwich Village, they had to

put milk cans and everything on a train." Many disagree. Says Barnes, "People should have been paid for business. And people should have had help in finding new jobs and so forth. That would have been done if it had happened in this period."

For many, the financial losses paled next to the emotional ones. Marjorie Vincent, Harry Thresher's younger sister, remembers moving on Christmas Eve of 1933. "My mother just hated to move. We had to be out the first of the year. She stayed as long as she could." Barnes believes the experience hastened the death of her grandfather. Adds Lucile Thresher, "My sister Bunny, she doesn't like that beautiful Quabbin at all. She'd like to pull the plug out, because they took all our homes away. So she won't say it's pretty, not even yet." Says Chester Hanks, "When I see a big valley, I think, why don't they flood this, like they did ours?"

OPPORTUNITY IN LOSS

Those who stayed during the decade of preparation and construction saw the valley undergo a gradual metamorphosis. As longtime residents moved out, others moved to the valley to work on the project. Houses, barns, and trees disappeared, as huge aqueducts and dam structures were erected. Barnes points out that the project offered employment, especially to the valley's young men, that was scarce in those days. "They didn't have to go on the road during the Depression. They worked. Many of them ended up in jobs related to heavy machinery and other useful things. It gave them experience that they never would have had otherwise."

Some of the jobs created by the project were not so glamorous. Over 500 graves in 34 cemeteries had to be removed. All but a thousand were reentered at a cemetery within the Quabbin Reservation. The rest went to family plots in private cemeteries. Lucile Thresher's brother-in-law oversaw the task. Says Harry Thresher, "It seems like every young man who had anything to do with that cemetery got to drinking." Lucile explains: "Some of them were so bad that they would take 'em right up on the shovel. The remains, you know. You had to have a strong stomach." Lois Barnes' mother was in charge of making out the permits for moving graves from the town of Prescott. Barnes remembers a cemetery she would pass on her way to the school bus stop. "Every day there were men out there digging up graves. That was going on all the time—one of my weirder memories."

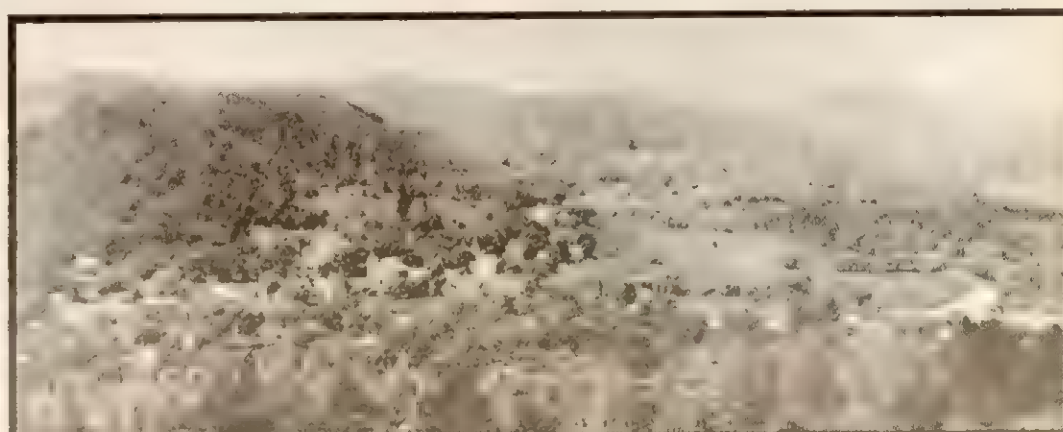
The project also brought an influx of outsiders to the valley, among them surveyors, engineers, and approximately two thousand "Woodpeckers," unemployed young men from the Boston area who, according to consensus, "had never been in the woods or held an axe before." Many boarded with local families, including Les Campbell's and the Threshers. For the most part, these city boys didn't cause much trouble beyond a tendency toward afterhours drunkenness. But Harry remembers when a few set fire to the Enfield church in 1933. Townspeople rushed to the scene at four in the morning, "just as the bell fell from the belfry right down to the cellar." Four buildings succumbed to the fire. When Lucile and Harry were married five years later, the ceremony took place at the Thresher farm, the church long since gone.

Some buildings were neither razed nor burned — they were transported. Lois Emerson, whose family left the valley in 1928, remembers going back to visit her brother, who was tearing down a house. "He moved to Amherst, and took the lumber with him and sold it. A lot of people tore them down and rebuilt them. Some of them took them whole. Once the MDWSC bought them, they sold them back for next to nothing. And what they didn't sell, they burnt."

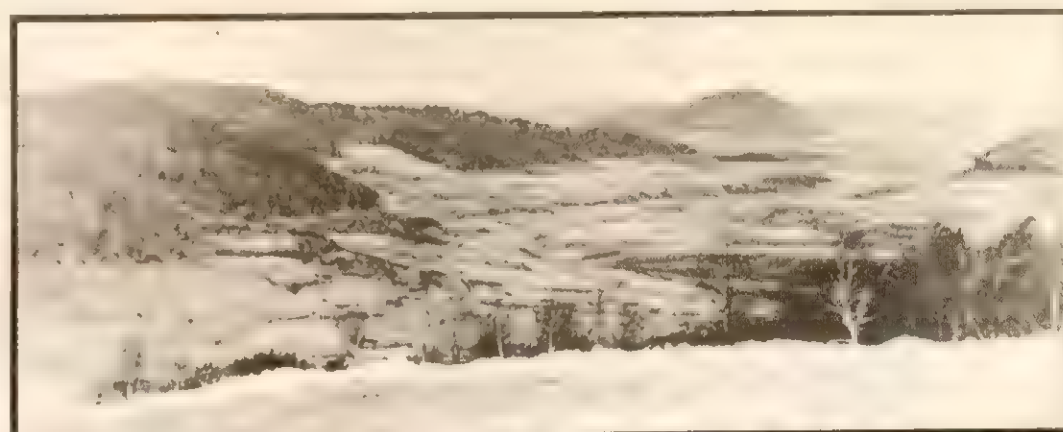
Lucile Thresher's sister moved her house in two sections. Says Harry Thresher, "They bought the house for \$60, cut it in half, and took it on a truck up to Pelham."



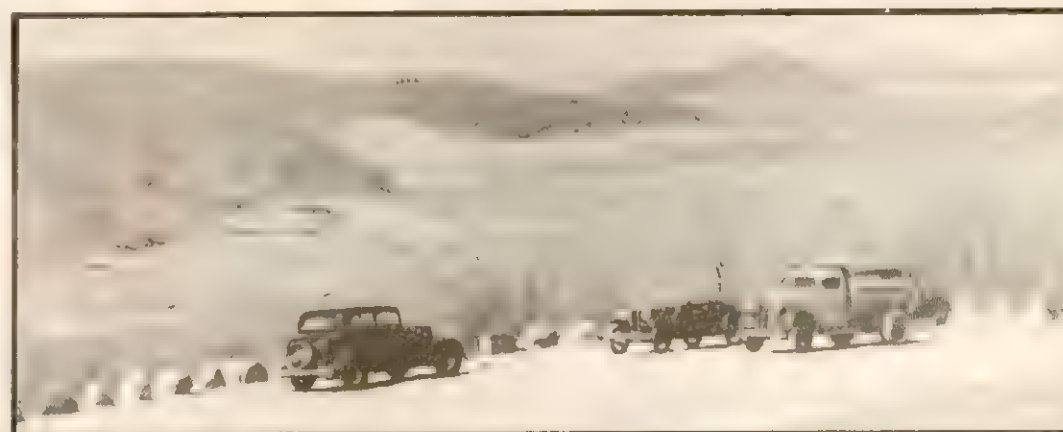
Soft focus on the past — Enfield, circa 1887. Photographer unknown.



The growing valley — Enfield in 1927. Photographed by Walter Gardner.



Cleared for flooding — Enfield in 1939. Also photographed by Walter Gardner.



The rising tide — Enfield site in 1940. MDC photo.



The Quabbin Reservoir filled to 89% capacity in 1986. Photographed by Les Campbell.

Wealthy New Yorkers bought the Hanks' house after the family left. Chester Hanks has gone to see it in its new location: Bristol, Vermont. Lois Barnes remembers a contractor who bought up houses and tore them down, marking all the parts, to reconstruct

scattered around the valley offered a unique opportunity for some families suffering the effects of the Depression in nearby cities. Doris and Jim Cargill were children of two such families. Originally from the Springfield area, in the early '30s both families moved to farms on the same stretch of road in Enfield — left complete with tools, dishes, and pots and pans.

Doris's father, a rifle-tester at Stephen's Arms in Chicopee, knew his job was in jeopardy. For five dollars a month, a farm with a woodlot and large gardens allowed the family to be self-sufficient, while relatives who remained in the city were forced to go on welfare. The children helped with raising chickens, working in the gardens, chopping trees for fuel, and a great deal of canning. Though the rent money often came hard, says Doris, "We lived very well. I loved every minute of it."

At the age of eight Doris discovered the vigorous country life valley children had always known. Residents fondly remember both work and play.

In autumn and winter, Harry Thresher earned ten cents a day starting the fire in his school's pot-belly stove. On his walk home through the woods he checked his trapline: a good skunk pelt could go for as much as \$3.50. He sold magazines, newspapers and cards, eventually saving \$24 for a bicycle. In the summer he worked with his three brothers in the fields, racing with them at the end of the day to a pond that offered cool relief from the itchy hayseed that clung to their skin.

Lucile's Thresher's older sister had the job of bringing the men in the fields a drink of water, molasses, and ginger they found especially thirst-quenching. Doris remembers days working in the gardens with her siblings punctuated with breaks for lemonade, sandwiches, and swimming.

Valley children survived harsh winters with healthy doses of sledding, skating and skiing. Emerson remembers the excitement in the air on days the teacher would declare the pond behind the schoolhouse safe for skating. And all can recount the proverbial miles-

them. We played with them."

Idyllic as this sounds, many say that as young people they welcomed the activity the project brought to the valley, and were eager to move to a new home with modern conveniences. "I wanted to move. We didn't have electricity of bathrooms in Greenwich Village. You had to go clear to the end of the barn — a long walk in the winter. I felt like I was moving to a big city," says Emerson, whose family moved to nearby North Brookfield, where she lives today. "Of course, now I want to go back," she adds, laughing.

GOODBYE, AND HELLO...

Harry Thresher remembers the valley in the final phase of clearing as "desolate — almost scary." Says Barnes, "They were clearing it right down to the bare ground. They would cut brush and trees and anything that was left — houses, buildings. They would bulldoze it into one heap and put a match to it. There was burning day and night. It was like Dante's inferno — smoke and flames all the time during that whole last period." Doris Cargill, whose family had already moved on by that time, recalls, "We went back and saw our house flat. It was a shock. We didn't go back again."

Lois Emerson's sister-in-law was postmistress of Greenwich. "She sent out cards — 'Last mail to leave Greenwich,' with the date postmarked. They were the last ones to leave the village. Other people said, 'I ain't going to leave. They'll have to take me in a boat.' Oh, you'd hear that a lot. Well, my brother and his wife, they were the only ones to actually leave on a boat," following a hurricane that hit central Massachusetts in 1938,

"If we hadn't sent the water to Boston, Boston would have moved out here. I'd much rather send them the water."

— Les Campbell

long walk to school in the snow. But in better weather, some kids rode to school in a surrey with a fringe on top. Chester Hanks drove himself and his brothers to school every day, parking his horse in a nearby shed, remembering to bring the horse's lunch — a bag of hay — as well as his own.

There were encounters with wildlife. Harry Thresher remembers being surprised by a bobcat while accompanying his father on his mail sleigh one dark winter's night. "I'll never forget that scream," he says, referring to the cat's cry as it sailed clear over the horse in front of them. "I'm just glad it didn't land on the horse." Some interactions were more benign. Recalls Emerson, "We went swimming in the river, with the big black snakes that hid in the grass. We weren't afraid of



Courtesy Les Campbell

Greenwich resident, Lou Squires, worked on the dam.

them elsewhere. Many, she says, wound up in Dorset, New Hampshire, a popular resort town.

Often people leaving the valley left behind more than their houses. "When people sold their homes, they always left things," says Lois Emerson. "They didn't know then they were valuable. When the MDWSC went to tear them down they got treasures untold."

The abandoned homes and possessions



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causing floods.

With human dwellings gone, and the landscape dramatically altered by dams and the trees planted to curb erosion, former residents can find visiting the Quabbin disorienting. "It doesn't look at all the way it used to. There's a weird feeling about the fact that you can look through the water and see foundations of buildings and roads that go right into the reservoir," says Lois Barnes.

"Sometimes when people move away, they can go back to their old homestead. There was no way we could do that. My brother Everett always said he was like a man without a country when they flooded the Quabbin. He never went through Belchertown without looking at it."

Several of the Tuesday Tea group have gone back to sites still above water, some finding the cellar hole and well of their old homestead. Harry Thresher enjoys exploring Quabbin's woods, discovering secrets — such as a forgotten tombstone — hidden there.

While acknowledging its beauty, many feel that the creation of the Quabbin was unnecessary, at best. Some believe that Boston already had access to an ample water supply which could have been made more efficient, and that the decision to build the reservoir was more political than practical. Says Chester Hanks, "I hear the pipes leak so much in Boston that they waste more water than they use." Marjorie Vincent says she knows people in Boston who "don't have the vaguest idea where their water comes from. I think that upsets me the most."

SANCTUARY

Les Campbell takes a different view. "It was the right thing to do at the right time, because it could never be done today. If we

hadn't sent the water to Boston, Boston would have moved out here. I'd much rather send them the water." Originally from nearby Ware, Campbell got a job at the Quabbin right after high school, in 1944. He worked his way up to become a water-quality tester a position he held until he retired in 1988. Also a photographer with a deep affinity for nature, Les Campbell has compiled an impressive visual history of the Quabbin, comprised of photos he has rescued from fading away in various archives, as well as his own work. Though respectful of the loss suffered by those displaced by the reservoir, he points out that they weren't the first people dispossessed of the valley. "Native Americans liked it here, too, and they were forced out without any compensation. Some of it is a brutal story."

He finds it pleasantly ironic that the natural beauty of the Quabbin is merely the by-product of a project undertaken to meet an urban center's growing demand for water. To ensure a pure watershed, the MDWSC purchased 56,000 acres of land surrounding the reservoir, which is now a carefully protected "managed wilderness." In so doing, says Campbell, "They've created a sanctuary not just for wildlife, but for people. Places like the Quabbin are necessary to our spiritual health as pure water is to our physical health."

Lois Barnes considers what might have happened to the valley if the Quabbin had not been created. "The tourist industry would've taken over, and that would have changed the character of those towns, because that was already happening." Says Doris Cargill, "If Enfield was still there, it would be full of McDonald's and condominiums, with the same problems as everybody else. So we have it to remember."★



Courtesy Les Campbell

Roy (left) and Chester Hanks, before the flood.



Amber Davis

Friends of Quabbin Board members Roy Hanks and Lois Barnes. Hanks' family was the first to leave Enfield in 1927.

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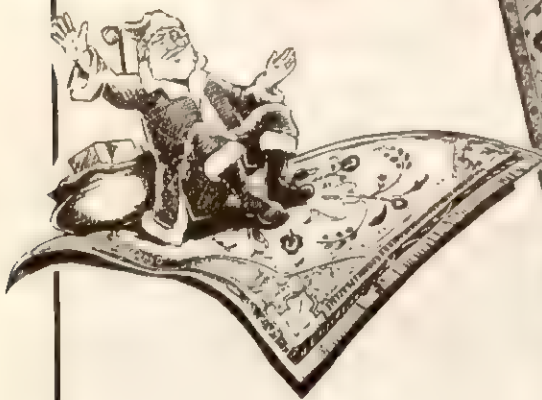
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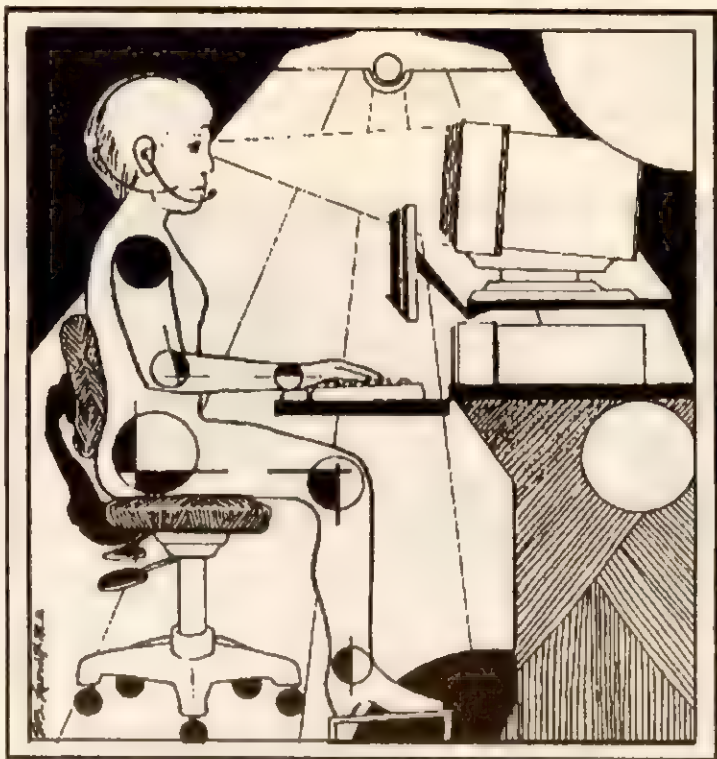


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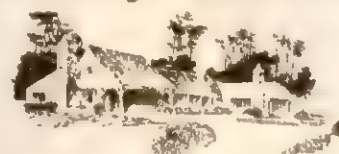
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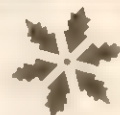
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The Problem With Pigeons

Letter to the Editor

There is only one flock of pigeons in Northampton, and they're in danger. Observant eyes will notice some changes on the brownstone building on the corner of Pleasant Street and Hampton Avenue of late; the decoy owl statuettes are being replaced by beams of spikes on the top of that structure. The area pigeons have failed

the sidewalk there, dazed and unable to fly. It is presently convalescing in my apartment. I surmise that this bird fell from the building top because while there is no external damage, this unfortunate pigeon spins in circles and falls on its head when it attempts to walk. It also has some vision problems which necessitates force feeding

If any bird fanciers in Northampton care about this situation, they might stock up on wire cages, peanuts, and eyedroppers.

to be intimidated by the artificial predators, and far harsher methods of discouraging these birds are being installed.

I call these measures harsh because pigeons, more so than most birds, are instinctive slaves to their homing proclivities. Cher Ami, that celebrated carrier pigeon of the first World War, didn't save the troops by flying through the enemy lines — losing a foot and being shot in the chest — because it hated the German Army; it braved those injuries to return, with message secured to its remaining leg, because it wanted to go to its nest and its mate waiting there. The flock that resides at 77 Pleasant Street is equally habitual, and those pigeons do continue to land there, even if it means that sharp little daggers are awaiting them.

I know these pigeons are in danger because I found one adolescent pigeon on

— opening its beak and dropping in small grains as its parents once did. It is a developmentally disabled pigeon.

The other pigeons in Northampton will undoubtedly face other perils. Some will be impaled, some will lose a foot. I'm not suggesting that the owner of the building doesn't have the express right to protect the property as the owner sees fit; I'm merely pointing this out so that if any bird fanciers in Northampton care about this situation, they might stock up on wire cages, peanuts, and eyedroppers. There will be a lot of needy pigeons to be found huddled on the ground the next few months. Pigeons do make very nice, and loyal, pets — as I have discovered since raising them over ten years ago. One of nature's most stoic and adaptable animals, the common pigeon needs your help.

Craig Timothy Kurtz
Northampton



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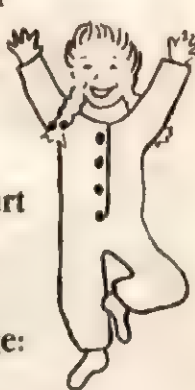
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Graphic Art and Gargoyles

Riding on success, Kevin Eastman's unique Words and Pictures Museum moves over and grows up
by Jonathan Ratcliff

Have you noticed people craning their necks skyward on the streets of Northampton lately? They're trying to get a better look at the enormous, winged gargoyle, those sinister little faces, and those windows with cut out cartoon silhouettes on the building next to Thornes Marketplace on Main Street that has been undergoing renovations since last April.

The exterior merely hints at the creative design that lurks inside. The building that once housed Beardsley's restaurant has become home to the new Words and Pictures Museum — a remarkable facility boasting an unconventional layout and a one-of-a-kind concept.

A couple of years ago Kevin Eastman, local artist, icon, and co-creator of the now-universally famous Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, set out to bring inspire his own love of comic book art and illustration in the masses. Eastman's financial success in the '80s provided him with the means and the motivation to pursue his mission.

The Words and Pictures Museum became the vehicle for Eastman's goal, and it was an immediate success. "The Museum was phenomenally well received," says co-director Fiona Russell. "You could see it in our gift shop sales, the people who said and wrote very positive things about it, or just by the sheer numbers of people who came through the door."

But why in Northampton? One might expect to see this type of museum in a larger metropolitan area, like Boston or New York. "Quite frankly, the Pioneer Valley is an absolute hotbed of talented artists," says Russell. "There are comic book publishers, a number of editorial cartoonists, fantasy illustration artists, and children's book illustration artists here. Not only that, the Valley area is receptive to what it is we do here and, bottom line, it's home. Start at home, you know?"

Russell is right. Eastman has an affinity

for the area: this is where it all began for him. In keeping with his loyalty to small town living, Eastman has kept much of his business here, contracting local businesses to work on the design and construction of the new museum. One visit will show you that it was no small undertaking.

The word *museum* does little to conjure up what has been created inside. As was the original museum (located in the historic Roundhouse in Northampton), the new Words and Pictures is an experiment in interior design, conceptualized by Eastman and his Words and Pictures crew and a professional museum service company. The new museum will have all of the elements of the original, in addition to some surprising new features. By Russell's estimate, Words and Pictures is four times as large as it used to be, with four very full floors (connected by an elevator) of comic book art and other related diversions.

There are, according to Russell, many advantages to the new location. The new building is in a high traffic area — meaning it will attract more people and be easier to find. The expansion in size is obviously enormous, enabling Words and Pictures to have three different exhibits going on simultaneously in different galleries in the building, as opposed to the single exhibits shown in the old Roundhouse

location. This means visitors can experience a wider range of comic art and really get a feel for the genre's potential. One of the things the museum is already known for (particularly among comic aficionados) is its vast and varied collection. The ability to showcase more of it is certainly a highlight of the new museum.

Words and Pictures whisks the visitor away from reality into the surreal world of comic illustration by setting different thematic scenes with which the visitor can interact. The effect is immediate, beginning with the newly expanded "time cave" that covers, as Russell says, "1,500 years [of illustration] in 15 footsteps." The origins of graphic art are chronicled here, from cave



Mark Rea

Animated Downtown Northampton— the brand new home of the Words and Pictures Museum.

drawings to the modern comic book. Inside, visitors can actually create their own characters in one of many ways, from chalkboards and sketch pads to computers and thermal-image-producing light boards. This is all provided on the interactive second floor, in between large replicas of the Turtles and false storefronts. It's a guaranteed draw (so to speak) for the kids.

The third and fourth floors house the main galleries. The third floor is a more traditional gallery used for bimonthly exhibits. The fourth floor holds the largest gallery and just screams "Hey, this is art!" by sat-

irizing the Louvre museum with ornamental frames (that hold comics!), ornate columns, and a vaulted ceiling. The size of this floor (and its built-in stage setup) provides an excellent forum for exhibit openings, roundtable discussions, and artists' signings, as well as new events that could include illustrator lectures and discussions open to the public.

Unlike the old museum, there will be an admission fee, but folks at Words and Pictures expect it to be reasonable. "There will be free days for Northampton resi-

continued on page 46

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The Fine Art Of Culinary Consultation

Three Valley caterers reflect on the profession

by Erica Habert

Caterers just might be the unsung heroes and heroines of the food business. It is they who work diligently behind the scenes at your office party, class reunion, and wedding to please the palate of every guest — and save the hosts from mounds of dishes. They also come to the rescue of many a panicked party-giver during this holiday season and throughout the year.

As individual preferences for particular foods and presentation vary, so do the styles of caterers — and this is as it should be. Originality is a trademark in the caterer's line of work. When a caterer is hired to create an eating experience for one's guests, the host probably aspires towards something more than just "the usual."

The caterers profiled here, though they differ in style, have all been recognized for their services. And they concur about a common factor in their work: behind the flair and the filet mignon lies a lot of hard work.

MYERS' CATERING: RICHARD LYMAN, JR.

For fifteen years, the Lyman family has established Myers' Eatery as a trusted name among Northampton's restaurants. This diner-style eatery is perhaps best known for its extensive breakfast menu and its extra-late-night hours Fridays and Saturdays. But for the past eight years, Richard Lyman Jr. has worked to enlarge Myers' favorable reputation beyond its regular offerings and into the realm of personalized catering.

Lyman said that running a catering business out of a restaurant has its advantages. "The restaurant helps in the down times," he explained. "One offsets the other. One also sells the other too." Myers' catering menu reads like a selection of time-tested favorites, from entrées of pasta, poultry, beef, and seafood to desserts that would please any sweet tooth. Appetizers range from the traditional,

such as deviled eggs and chicken wings, to the more exotic shrimp and pea pod brochettes

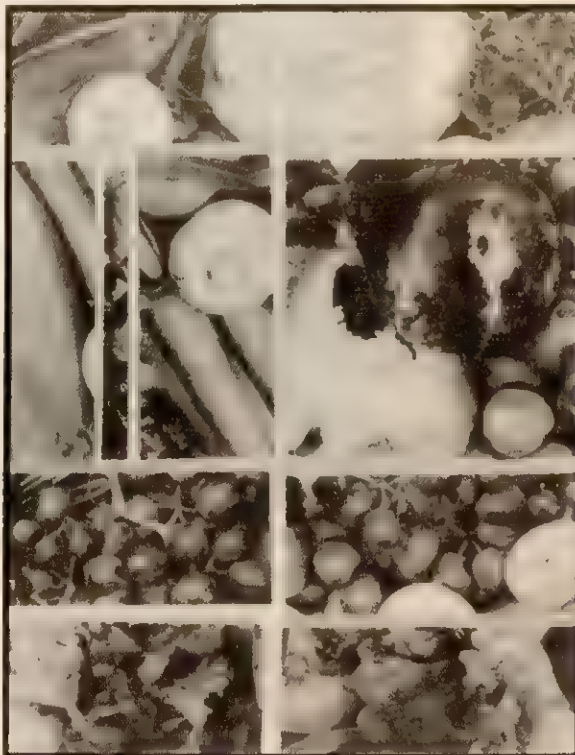
and pesto-stuffed mushrooms. Also offered are breakfast buffets, themed dinners such as New England Clambakes, and — a personal favorite of Lyman's — "all-gourmet, all-out" weddings.

Every custom-tailored menu can be adapted to a buffet or a sit-down style. And recently, Myers' Catering expanded its facilities to include a catering hall and fully-equipped kitchen in Turners Falls. "We do dinner parties for two and buffets for 1,500," said Lyman, who will now be able to "cater" to a wider clientele. Lyman attributes the success of Myers' catering business to the collective experience of the staff. Lyman himself holds a degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales University, and most others have been professionally trained in esteemed culinary schools.

GRAND OCCASIONS CATERING: SUE HEFFERNAN

Offering an entire restaurant for her clients' private parties, caterer Sue Heffernan works double-duty as proprietor of her own business — Grand Occasions — as well as coordinator of catering for Curtis & Schwartz in Northampton. She offers the latter as space for people to lease in the evenings for a variety of catered functions.

Following several years of work as both a waitress and a caterer, starting her own business was a natural evolution. Yet Heffernan doesn't downplay the effort required to make this transition. "People often think it's just a glamorous job...but you have to be willing to put in a lot of hours and have a lot of physical stamina." On any given day, she added, "I might be scoring food for 150 people in the kitchen, I'm all sticky — and then I have to run into the



Amber Davis

bathroom and throw on a dress [before the guests arrive]." But, she said, "I think it's

"I might be scoring food for 150 people in the kitchen, I'm all sticky — and then I have to throw on a dress [before the guests arrive]."
— Sue Heffernan of Grand Occasions from Curtis & Schwartz

better if you're involved in the kitchen work. It's your touch."

The catering "touch," according to Heffernan, is service which begins with an extensive initial consultation and stresses attention to detail throughout the entire process. As a catering consultant, Heffernan specializes in filling in the missing links of an occasion. This past summer, for example, for a wedding which took place on the grounds of Smith College, she set up a schedule for the day, made sure that the bride and groom had champagne when they were supposed to, and transported the gifts from the wedding site to a private home.

"I try to hit what people need," she said, asking for two weeks notice for her customized catering. "It's not as though I have a bunch of food that's all packaged and

ready to go. Everything is prepared fresh for each event." She hires staff as she needs them per job, and said that she often gets compliments on her staff's professionalism. "They're good, but they're not 'in your face.'"

Her advice to would-be caterers is to "go that extra mile," particularly in the beginning. "Paying your dues on the first jobs will hopefully get the word out," she said.

THE BLACK SHEEP DELI & BAKERY: NICK SEAMON

If the term *cutting edge* could be applied to a catering style, then The Black Sheep would be its embodiment. One could hardly imagine offering more varieties of sandwiches, salads, platters, appetizers, entrées, and desserts — and the menu is constantly evolving. In line with the character of the Amherst deli, owner/caterer Nick Seamon describes The Black Sheep's catering style as "high-quality, imaginative food that is informally presented...We don't do stuffy."

The selfsame cooks and bakers who are responsible for The Black Sheep's regular items are the force behind its delectable catering creations. Nearing its ninth year in business, The Black Sheep will handle every aspect of a catered occasion, from ordering liquor to booking a band, given the appropriate notice (48 hours minimum, with more for larger orders).

Seamon said that having a "retail face" to a food business is a factor that people who are interested in catering should consider. "It's a lot of work to have a retail business, but it's also nice to have cash flow. It gives a little more flexibility."

"We don't live or die by the catering business," he continued. "If I get a ten-person party, it's great; if I get a one hundred-person party, it's great; but if I don't get anything, we're still in business. So I don't feel as pressured as I would if I was solely a caterer."

Other advice to would-be caterers? "Keep the scope small." There is a big difference between cooking a delicious meal for eight and catering an occasion for 800. "We're not talking about breezing in and out of

continued on page 46

MAKE A DATE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

The University of Massachusetts Family Business Center: Executive Seminar. The topic for this third segment of the UMass Family Business Center's executive seminar series is estate and financial planning. Participants will learn ways to lessen the burden of estate taxes and develop high performance leadership skills. Thomas Rogerson, director of wealth preservation services at Coopers & Lybrand and a lecturer at Harvard Business School, and Kevin Flatley, vice president of Private Bank at Bank of Boston, will discuss the logistics of estate planning. UMass School of Management Professor Robert Marx will be the instructor for the leadership skills portion of the seminar. The seminar will be held from 8 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. in Northampton. For registration information, call 545-1537.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

The University of Massachusetts is sponsoring an open class activity on the issues of gender and race in the workplace. UMass graduate students in management have been creating interactive exercises to deal with these sensitive issues in business this semester, and will be presenting their projects to the public on Monday. The presentation will take place from 6:30 — 9:30 p.m. in the Campus Center, Room 917. Call 545-0444 or 744-4316 for more information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

The Massachusetts Small Business Center and the British Standards Institution: UMass/BSI ISO 9000 Initiative — A World-Class Program for Local Small Businesses. A program offering local businesses committed to cultivating an ISO-compliant quality management system a combination of intensive training and support from BSI trainers, as well as UMass faculty and students. This training team is distinguished by the BSI's preeminence as an ISO registrar, and by the UMass faculty's world-wide distinction in the fields of engineering and quality management. The program will run from May to September, 1995. Early registration is required due to the intensity and selectivity of this program. Pre-registration is due by January 31, 1995. Enrollment is limited to the first eight companies. For more information, call 545-6307.

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COMMERCIAL PULSE

New Store Promotes Women's Interests

Wild Iris, a new gift shop in Northampton, was established to fill a need for women in the community and create a space for them, said owners Joyce Toth and Lorraine Montalto.

Toth said she and Montalto felt the area was lacking a gift shop for women, and they wanted Wild Iris to be not just a gift store, but a place to showcase events such as lectures, readings, and performances that would be of interest to women.

First-time entrepreneurs Toth and Montalto are already well on their way to meeting their goal as they feature the work of different female artists from the area, as well as other parts of New England.

"We sell arts and crafts made by women. We like to think of ourselves as kind of a gallery for women — we hope the art will keep changing, so it's always different. We will give priority to women [artists] in the area," Montalto said.

Wild Iris is more than just a gift store and gallery for women. It is also a place to relax. "Part of our vision is to have a place for women to hang out," Toth said. "We have coffee, tea, and muffins for sale, and chairs and a rocker for people to pick up a book and sit down to thumb through it. I'd like to add that Wild Iris is not just for women — everyone is welcome."

Wild Iris, located at 7 Old South Street, is offering coupons for a ten percent discount off any item for the month of December. The store will also be awarding two gift-certificates — one for their fiftieth customer in December, and another in a drawing to be held on December 21.

RAPID PULSE

IN NORTHAMPTON

La Cazuela chef Rosemary Schmidt has been awarded first prize in the beverage category of Welch's first annual recipe contest. Schmidt's entry of sangria libre, which uses Welch's 100 percent purple grape juice, won her a \$1000 check. The recipes were judged on the criteria of originality, taste, merchandising potential, and capability of being used in a restaurant operation.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital recently honored volunteers with service awards. On the higher end of the scale, 4000-hour awards were presented to Helen Lavelle of Northampton and Roland Le Beau of Easthampton. Audrey Callaghan received an award for 10,000 service hours, Janice Skinner was the recipient of a 13,000-hour honor, and M. Sanford Weil, Jr., was acknowledged for achieving the distinction of 18,000 service hours. The volunteers recognized work in many areas of the hospital, from the emergency department to the coffee shop. For more information on volunteer opportunities at Cooley Dickinson, call 582-2251.

IN HOLYOKE

The Holyoke Mall at Ingleside has added a new store. The Volleyball Hall of Fame store opened recently, courtesy the Holyoke Mall, which is donating the space and utilities for the non-profit organization. The store sells official Hall of Fame T-shirts, centennial T-shirts and pins, volleyball sweatshirts, jackets, shorts, stickers, hats, and sports accessories. A miniature Hall of Fame exhibit will also be featured at the store, whose proceeds will be used to fund several events to be held next year in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of volleyball, which was founded at the Holyoke YMCA in 1895.

IN SPRINGFIELD

At the annual meeting of the Hampden County Bar Association, Bart Gordon, a partner in the firm of Bulkley, Richardson, and Gelinas, was honored by Western Massachusetts Legal Services, Inc., for his devotion to the principle of equal justice under the law. Gordon, a Northampton resident, was chosen for the acknowledgement for his leadership abilities, kindness, and hours of law service to people in poverty, according to WLMS.

The Spirit of Springfield, Inc., a non-profit organization which sponsors community activities, has named three new members to its board of directors. Springfield businessmen Dwight Brouillard, Kevin LeRoux, and Peter Picknelly, have joined the Spirit of Springfield. Brouillard is Director of Advertising for the *Union News/Sunday Republican*, and serves on the board of several organizations, including the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, the National Advertising Board, and the Springfield School Volunteers. LeRoux is President of WGGB-TV News 40, and serves on the boards of the Senior Games of Western Massachusetts, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and the American Diabetes Association, among others. Picknelly holds the position of Chairman-Emeritus for Peter Pan Bus Lines. He has served on the boards of the Springfield Boys Club, BayBank Valley, and the New England Bus Association. In the past, the Spirit of Springfield has brought the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, the Parade of the Big Balloons, First Night Springfield, and the Peter Pan Taste of Springfield to the community.

— Alice Hicks

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A Wine Shop-To-Sip Instruction Manual

by Yves Ferrand

Never ever be taken aback by a wine snob. Chances are that few have a real understanding of wine basics, and, as the saying goes, cannot see the forest for the trees. What follows are the top ten caveats you need to understand a product that is used all over the world as the beverage of choice with meals.

Number 10: Buy wine at a wine shop that sells wine. This, like all other rules, should be obvious. Buy wine where there are people who care and know about the product rather than a shop eager to make some extra profit off a product of which they have no understanding. This area is blessed with shops ranging from tiny to huge that understand wine is a product far more delicate and complicated than vodka or national-industrial beers. Good advice and friendly service are far better for someone seeking the best buy available than someone who gets suckered into buying a product about which both the store clerk and the customer know nothing. A low price is not always a bargain!

Number 9: Buy wines you can afford in quantities that are reasonable. If you are going to a dinner party or a special event, rather than bring an expensive wine that strains the wallet, bring a few different bottles. This way you can avoid the disaster of the "corked" or faulty wine, as well as offer more possible matches with the

meal. Going blindly into a situation, a dry chardonnay and a smooth yet full-bodied red usually cover all the bases. For home use it is better to try a number of wines

Like the cuisine of many countries, wine can be more easily understood by placing it in the context of its culture rather than shoehorning it into a preconceived notion of what a great wine should taste like.

with the idea that there is a wine out there just for you. By not buying the most expensive wine you can afford, you may stumble across a wine that you can afford to drink on a regular basis. Price in wine often has little to do with quality alone.

Number 8: Store wines correctly. This

does not mean that your wines have to be stored in picture-perfect conditions, never wavering above 56 degrees, with just the right amount of moisture in the air. This

may be important for bottles meant to be consumed twenty years from now, but it is of little importance to a chardonnay you plan to drink next month, or for that matter a cabernet that will be quaffed within the next five years. Keep the wine cool, lay it on its side, and keep it out of direct sunlight.

Number 7: Do not become a prisoner of a little knowledge. If you find yourself liking wine, you are invited into a world where learning never stops — there are no real "masters of wine," only eternal pupils. Everyone who feels that

they know everything they need to know about a subject condemns themselves in a frozen cell of boredom, repetition, and half-truths. The fellow who "only drinks Bordeaux" or tells you that "California wines are best" is a sad clown indeed. It is best to be an amateur on a quest that never

ends than be a self-satisfied expert with a file cabinet of stale opinions.

Number 6: Understand that the very basis of wine is that it is a local beverage. And like the cuisine of many countries, it can be more easily understood by placing it in the context of its culture rather than shoehorning it into a preconceived notion of what a great wine should taste like. A copita of sherry should never taste like a balloon glass of burgundy. Nor should one look down one's nose at someone who enjoys sweet rather than dry wine, anymore than one should look down their nose at someone eating dessert rather than a potato.

Number 5: Red wines with red meat, white wines with fish, right? Yes and no. This is a great rule if you drink wine once or twice a year. Everyone else will soon realize that with a lot of dishes (turkey for instance) red and white wines go equally well. I am fond of salmon and Pinot Noir, lobster and a light sauternes, or cabernet sauvignon and dark chocolate. This confession may undermine my credibility with some readers, who are most likely ignoring caveat Number 7! Finding what wine goes best with what dish is part of the fun. A good way to start is by matching the recipe with wines of the area. Other than that, trust your own nose and palate.

Number 4: Pay attention to the temperature and the amount of time that a wine is open! Woody chardonnays taste like

continued on page 46



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January 1995

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January 1995

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Scrooge in Springfield!

A Christmas Carol returns to StageWest

by Mark G. Auerbach

'T is the season for theaters nationwide to mount their annual productions of *A Christmas Carol*. In the Big Apple this month, theatergoers have two completely different productions to choose from — the new musical extravaganza at the Paramount, and Patrick Stewart's intriguing one-man version. StageWest, which has its own rendition of the Charles Dickens classic, revives its handsome production after a four-year hiatus. The new adaptation by Artistic Director Eric Hill is a welcome return-to-form for StageWest.

This StageWest production is their first in quite a while to have a large cast. Its stunning new sets by Miguel Romero underplay spectacle, leaving directors Hill and Tom Blair room to showcase their talents with well-choreographed tableaux. Polly Byers' costumes are excellent; Jeff Hill's lighting and special effects mesmerize; M. Anthony Reimer's sound design excels. Because the entire production resists the element of extravaganza, StageWest's *A Christmas Carol* is heightened by its intimacy and, ultimately, its sincerity.

And, although this may be a "revival," it is *A Christmas Carol* reworked. I can't recall the details of the original StageWest production, but Mr. Hill's adaptation, which emphasizes the essence of Charles Dickens' familiar tale in a very genuine "as told by Dickens himself" manner, blends theatricality with theme. Dickens' social commentary of 1843 remains very contemporary in Hill's hands; the production's sentimentality seems the result of the audience's connection



Richard Feldman

Dan McCleary (as Charles Dickens) gets in the spirit with Jason Rivers (Peter Cratchit) and Vanetta Smith (Belinda Cratchit) in Stage West's *A Christmas Carol*

with Dickens and the holiday spirit that unfolds. Hill and Blair stage *A Christmas Carol* with brisk pacing; the ninety-minute production is just right for younger audiences, and there are enough special effects and moments of the fantastic to keep the youngsters interested.

Eric Hill and *A Christmas Carol* are old friends. He's staged both previous StageWest productions; he also appeared

offer a balanced ensemble performance — thanks in large part to the Hill/Blair staging. Kameron Steele, one of the brightest talents to play StageWest in years, is a stunning *Ghost of Marley*; J.D. Nelson's *Ghost of Christmas Present* is reminiscent of Falstaff; Nathan Guisinger's *Ghost of Christmas Future* is precise and powerful; Kelly Roger's *Ghost of Christmas Past* is rich. There

Because the entire production resists the element of extravaganza, StageWest's *A Christmas Carol* is heightened by its intimacy and, ultimately, its sincerity.

as "The Narrator" in the 1989 production — a dazzling performance that took advantage of his commanding stage presence, his matinee idol looks, his rich voice, and his unique ability to appear that he's talking with each member of the audience in a one-on-one dialogue. His rendering of "Scrooge" is commanding and compelling. Once one gets past the amazing physical metamorphosis from hunk to codger, Hill offers a panorama of emotions, taut physicality and luxuriant vocalisms. His transformation from "Scrooge" to a man with feeling is perfectly chiseled and intense.

There are lots of fine performances to savor. The cast, which includes current and former StageWest acting interns, a bevy of talented local youngsters, and more seasoned professional actors, all

are some other joys as well — the four young actors as the Cratchit children and a cameo performance by Cassandra Johnson as Fred's Wife. The only disappointment is Dan McLeary's low-key representation of Charles Dickens as narrator. This portrayal is just too subtle to act as a catalyst.

StageWest's *A Christmas Carol* is fine family fare. It captures the holiday spirit; it brings out the childlike innocence in all of us, and reminds us that ethical behavior and goodwill towards others aren't merely seasonal gestures. StageWest provides a thoughtful holiday gift to area theatergoers; "bah-humbug" to those who skip this production.★

A Christmas Carol runs through December 24. Performance times vary. For more information, call (413) 781-2340.





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New Releases

LOVE AND ROCKETS — HOT TRIP TO HEAVEN (AMERICAN)

Five years is a long time. And if there's one theory that's been proven time and time again in the rock and roll universe, it's this: no recording artist can produce anything worthwhile after a five-year hiatus. No one. Not Pink Floyd. Definitely not Peter Gabriel. And certainly not Love and Rockets, who, with their fifth album *Hot Trip to Heaven*, have taken a very long time to make a very long album that goes nowhere fast.

Ever since their first effort, 1985's *Seventh Dream of Teenage Heaven*, Love and Rockets have shifted between short, strumming pop songs and longer tracks that sound like extended dance remixes of songs that would have been more enjoyable at their original length. *Hot Trip to Heaven* carries that duality to an annoying extreme: witness the fourteen-minute opening track, "Body and Soul," or the other five songs that run more than seven minutes a piece. As if to make up for their long absence, Love and Rockets have decided to pay a longer visit this time around.

If only they had something to say. On the title track, David J and Daniel Ash sing "Yeah yeah yeah" endlessly over a booming drum and bleating horn loop that sounds like a flatulating monster stomping around. "Big black Mariah," they continue, "She's on fire/burning like a pyre/flames rising higher/yeah yeah yeah." One can only guess that the song is meant to be sexy in a bold, brassy sort of way, but it only succeeds in being laughable, as is "This Heaven," which comes off as a '90s version of Donna Summer's "Love to Love You Baby," complete with embarrassingly repetitious moaning.

Hot Trip to Heaven is at least a unified artistic effort. The album has a unique

spacey quality to it; every song achieves a ghostly ambience, even the danceable ones. Of course, the entire album also sounds like the "space travel sound effects" mid-section of Pink Floyd's "Echoes" set to varying drum machine programs. Love and Rockets obviously spent their five years working hard on the sound of this release — too bad they didn't write any songs.

— Ken Maiuri

JONI MITCHELL — TURBULENT INDIGO (REPRISE)

James Taylor sells out stadiums. Neil Young shreds amps for a new generation. Crosby, Stills, and Nash get an "unplugged" special.



But their singer/songwriter companion who sang of Woodstock is still just a lady of the canyon, staying away from the mainstream and following her own muse for more than two decades. And listening to her new disc, *Turbulent Indigo*, one thing is clear: she's smoked a lot of cigarettes since 1968.

Though the voice is still unmistakably Joni Mitchell's, her once "piercing, cold water soprano" (as one critic described it) has been transformed; it's huskier, smoky, occasionally leaping into the higher register on tracks such as "Last Chance Lost." Her new-found vocal shading perfectly suits the dark hue of the album's title, which is

most likely a nod to one of her best and most popular efforts, 1971's *Blue*. Indeed, the sound of the disc is a cross between the simple acoustic guitar and voice lineup of that album and the jazzier, keyboard- and sax-dominated instrumentation of such discs as 1976's *Hejira*.

Mitchell missteps only when preaching directly about the problems of the modern world (as on the stilted, synthesized "Sex Kills") or when pointlessly covering someone else's song ("How Do You Stop" is fine for Bonnie Raitt, but not for a songwriter of Mitchell's caliber). For the rest of *Turbulent Indigo*, though, Mitchell is in top form, with beautiful melodies and arrangements, and excellent lyrics that show she hasn't lost her poetic touch. "Yvette In English" and "Sunny Sunday" are especially well written, creating vivid, picturesque scenes ("She leaves him by the Seine/Alone/With the black water and the amber lights/and the bony bridge between left and right" from "Yvette In English").

After more than twenty-six years of writing songs and performing, it's uplifting to see that Mitchell has not allowed her artistic drive to falter. Even when she overreached (1977's *Don Juan's Reckless Daughter*) or came up short (1985's *Dog Eat Dog*), she never settled down to a predictable pattern like many of her contemporaries. *Turbulent Indigo* is a top-notch seventeenth album. Very few artists can say that. ★

— Ken Maiuri

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Pioneer Valley

Wednesday December 14

Sourpuss hosts the Electric Open at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton 21+ No Cover! Sign-up begins at 9 p.m.

Tom McClung Trio is at the Northampton Brewery (584-9903) from 10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Three University of Massachusetts jazz ensembles perform at Bowker Auditorium at UMass (tickets 545-2511) at 8 p.m.

Reggae Party at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9

Country Western dancing at the North Star with DJ Sparkie from 8 - 11 p.m.

Teen Dance Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley from 7 p.m. - midnight

Gay Night dancing at Pearl Street from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m., music provided by DJ Dennis 21+

Thursday December 15

Antietam, Twitch, and local hyper-pop dynamo Tizzy appear at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton 21+

Big Bad Bollocks guarantee a damn jolly time at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 7 p.m.

Sick of It All play Pearl Street (584-7771) with Black Train Jack Sprong Monkey, and Aftershock at 7:30 p.m. All ages

Pierce Campbell sings for you at the Black Sheep Café (253-3442) in Amherst at 8 p.m.

18+ dancing at Pearl Street from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. with music provided by DJ Dennis, with "Insomnia," alternative dancing downstairs

Blues and Ques featuring live piano music and barbecue specials at Squires Smoke and Game Club (268-7222) in Williamsburg from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Open Mike Blues Jam at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9

Riders On the Storm pay tribute to the Doors at Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton at 8:30 p.m.

Eshu Bumpus sings jazz with guitarist Doug MacMillan at the Montague Bookmill at 8 p.m.

The Sighs rock at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton 21+

Max Cohen brings his guitar to the Black Sheep Café (253-3442) in Amherst at 8 p.m.

City Lights are at the Villa Rose (547-6667) in Ludlow No cover!

Garry and the Moodswingers CD release party at Theodore's (736-6000) in Springfield

Ed Vadas is at the Hotel Northampton (584-3100) from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. No cover

Retro Night at Pearl Street 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. 21+

Laser Disc Dance Party at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley

Karaoke Night, the last word in hip hangouts, at the World War II Club (586-3314) in Northampton

18+ Dance Party with DJ Belsey at the North Star 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Saturday December 17

The Scud Mountain Boys make you ache so good with their suicidally-slow country-pop at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton with special guest Tom Shea 21+

Cathy Winter performs folk music at the Green River Café (773-3312) in Greenfield at 9 p.m.

Big Holiday Bluegrass Jam at the Black Sheep Café (253-3442) in Amherst at 8 p.m.

Tony Vacca and Tim Moran play their exotic blend of soaring melodies and percussion at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 7 p.m.



Country songs about Salem witches? Twangy acoustic guitar tunes that mention Chicopee? It sounds odd, but not for Donna Lee. The New England native writes and performs country music with a northern sensibility and southern accents, influenced equally by her time spent in Arkansas and Amherst. Lee will perform with her band on Friday, December 16, at the Iron Horse in Northampton at 10 p.m.

Boyz nite Out at the North Star with DJ Steven and male go go dancers from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Secret session at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley

Open Mike Night at the Mole's Eye Café (802-267-0771) in Brattleboro.

Friday December 16

Charles Neville and Diversity bring a jazzy, world-beat influenced groove to the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 7 p.m.

Donna Lee performs country at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 10 p.m.

Rent Party let it all hang out at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 10 p.m.

Johnny Copeand plays upbeat Texas blues at Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton with Sweet Daddy Cool Breeze at 8:30 p.m.

Flashback performs at the Villa Rose (547-6667) in Ludlow No cover!

Art Steele Blues Band is at Theodore's (739-7637) in Springfield at 9:30 p.m.

La Folia a flute and guitar duo, perform at the North Star (586-9409) in Northampton from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

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Ellen Cogen plays jazz at the Hotel Northampton (584-3106) from 8 p.m. - midnight. No cover.
Top 40 Club Music with DJ Lance at Pearl Street 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. 21+.
21+ Dance Party with DJ Steven at the North Star 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Seerotation at Kalina's (586-4463) in Hadley.
Grand Dance Party with DJ Dan at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9.

Sunday December 18

Louise Taylor and the Willy Porter Band, two progressive acoustic folk groups, will play a double bill at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 7 p.m.
The Slow Burn and the Mess are at the Northampton Brewery (584-9903) from 10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Andrea Nathanson performs at the North Star (586-9409) in Northampton at 7:30 p.m.
Retro Dance Nite at the North Star with DJ Betsy and female go-go dancers 9:45 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Monday December 19

Gay Night at Kalina's (586-4463) in Hadley.
Blue Monday at the Bay State Cabaret, with Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights. No cover. 21+.
R&B Dance Party at the Iron Horse (584-0610) in Northampton at 8 p.m.

Tuesday December 20

Check Please! are at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton 21+.
Open Mike Night at the Northampton Brewery with Chairman.
Open Mike Night at the Green River Cafe (773-3312) in Greenfield at 8 p.m.
Open Mike Night at the Hadley Pub on Rte. 9.

Wednesday December 21

Stringbean hosts the Electric Open at the Bay State Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton 21+. No cover.
Under the House is at the Northampton Brewery (584-9903) from 10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.



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Thurs. 12/15

ANTIETAM, TWITCH, TIZZY

Fri. 12/16

THE SIGHS, AMY FAIRCHILD

Sat. 12/17

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Sat. 12/20 Holiday Pageant:

CHECK, PLEASE!

Wed. 12/21: Baystate Electric Open: no cover
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Thurs. 12/22

HAIR VOLUME, THE MAGGIES,
TOAST

Fri. 12/23

DR. JONES, THOMAS MAJOR
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Fri. 12/30

TRAILER PARK, MR. PICKLE

Sat. 12/31

RAY MASON BAND, ANGRY
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Open Music Night at the Black Sheep Café (253-3442) in
Amherst at 7 p.m.
Teen Dance Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley from 7
p.m. - midnight
Country Western Dancing at the North Star with DJ from 8
11 p.m.

Thursday December 22

Exhumed get loud at Pearl Street (584-7771) in Northampton
with Tribal Fiction, Baby John Doe, Mistaken, and Sieze to
Exist at 7:30 p.m. All ages

The Maggies and Toast play the Bay State Cabaret (584-
8513) in Northampton. 21+
Ben Demerath Band is at the Northampton Brewery (584-
9903) from 10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Open Mike Blues Jam at the Hadley Pub on Rte 9
Boyz' Nite Out at the North Star with DJ Steven and male go-
go dancers from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Selectrocutation at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Open Mike Night at the Mole's Eye Café (802-257-0771) in
Brattleboro
Friday December 23
Gutterbirds return by popular demand to the Black Sheep
Café (253-3442) in Amherst at 8 p.m.

Dr. Jones and the Thomas major Loud Trio play the Bay State
Cabaret (584-8513) in Northampton. 21+
Mark Nomad gets the blues at the Hotel Northampton (584-
3100) from 7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. No cover!
Radio Kings CD release party at Theodore's (736-6000) in
Springfield
Karaoke Night (check it out!) at the WWII club (586-3314) in
Northampton
Retro Night at Pearl Street 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. 21+
Laser Disc Dance Party at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
18+ Dance Party with DJ Betsy at the North Star 10 p.m.
1 a.m.

Saturday December 24

Island Dance Party with DJ Dan at the Hadley Pub on Rte 9
Selectrocutation at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley
Top 40 dancing with DJ Lance at Pearl Street (584-7771) in
Northampton
21+ Dance Party with DJ Steven at the North Star 10 p.m.
1 a.m.

Sunday December 25

Retro Dance Nite at the North Star with DJ Betsy and
female go-go dancers 9:45 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Monday December 26

Rhythm and Blues Dance Party at the Iron Horse Music Hall
(584-0610) in Northampton at 8 p.m.
Blue Monday at the Bay State Cabaret with Ed Vadas & the
Fabulous Heavyweights. No cover! 21+
Gay Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley

Tuesday December 27

Open Mike Night at the Northampton Brewery with John
Allen
Open Mike Night at the Hadley Pub on Rte 9

Wednesday December 28

Gay and Lesbian Comedy Night at the Iron Horse (584-0610)
in Northampton at 7 p.m.
Reggae Party at the Hadley Pub on Rte 9
Country Western dancing at the North Star with DJ Sparkie
from 8 - 11 p.m.
Teen Dance Night at Katina's (586-4463) in Hadley from 7
p.m. - midnight
Gay Night dancing at Pearl Street from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. music
provided by DJ Dennis

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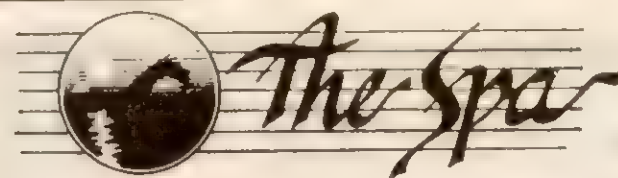
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Virtual Bore

Disclosure is just another fantasy morality play

by Joni Fraser

Sexual harassment of a man by a female boss is the hot-button topic of *Disclosure*, a new film based on the best-selling Michael Crichton novel. It features Michael Douglas, cinema's everymale, as Tom Sanders, a happily married executive living a cushy existence on the Seattle Sound. Trouble, however, is brewing at his high-tech firm. On this day he's passed over for a promotion in favor of Meredith Johnson (Demi Moore), a young ambitious woman brought up from the Silicon Valley. It so happens that Sanders and Johnson also had a "thing" years ago, before he was married, and — losing little time — Johnson makes it clear that day that she expects to take up where they left off. She invites him to her office after hours, backs him up against a copy machine, and insists he lie back and let her be the boss. When Sanders pulls himself together enough to spurn her advances, Johnson retaliates by charging Sanders with sexual harassment and then setting him up for a career-ending drubbing. Sanders, in turn, threatens to countersue. The cases end up in a sort of limply conducted mediation court. It's not spoiling things to note that, with the help of a sharp lawyer (Roma Maffia), Sanders is totally and completely vindicated, because Johnson has yet to play all of her cards.

Disclosure promises to be a good deal more thrilling, provocative, and sexy than it actually is. For one thing, it's a pretty lame techno-thriller, as the genre goes. The

film's plot has as much suspense as a software tutorial. Director Barry Levinson shows no sense of the fine rhythm for holding the viewer's interest through storytelling and dialogue that he's displayed in the excellent and unsettling TV series *Homicide*, and you never feel that Douglas' character is truly jeopardized. A major plot point concerns the company's use of virtual reality machines, yet when Sanders enters one, the environment he explores is basically a large file room. Typical of these information-age thrillers, the film begs the question of just how worked up you can get about a file folder as an object of desire. The Maltese falcon it ain't.

omous villain; Douglas' is a helpless victim. Like its cousin, the film *Fatal*

overwhelmingly male).

What *Disclosure* does do is tap into white men's anxieties about losing power in the workplace. The recurrent image in the film is of a friend of Sanders' — a "ghost with a resume" — who was "surplussed" after twenty-eight years at IBM. Problems at work? Blame a young assertive woman. Johnson is so laughably powerful that she can cause the firm's patriarch (Donald Sutherland) to act really evil, and can persuade all of Sanders' peers and subordinates to cower and turn on him. Conveniently, she's the

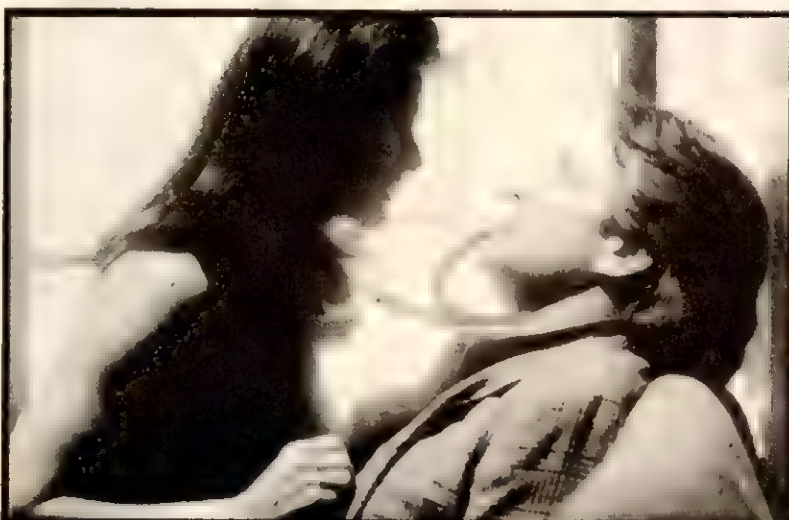


photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Demi Moore puts the moves on Michael Douglas in *Disclosure*.

The topic of sexual harassment is presented with no awareness of the subtleties involved.

As for *Disclosure* being a "hot-button" movie, sending viewers out in heated debate, the topic of sexual harassment is presented with no awareness of the subtleties involved. Moore's character is a ven-

Attraction — in which a single career woman seduces and attempts destroys a married man — *Disclosure* is just a fanta-

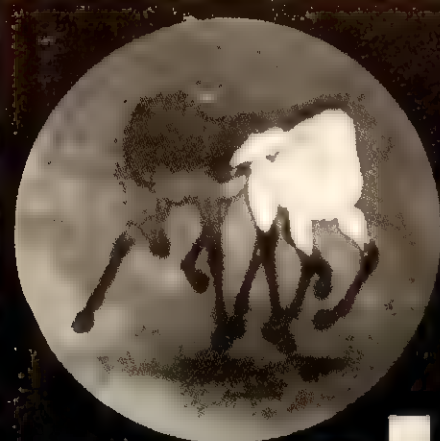
source of all corporate malfeasance; after she is humiliated, everyone reverts to their old kinder, gentler selves. The corporation continues on intact. Other than this, what the film seems most to have on its mind is Demi Moore's nicely toned physique — the camera ogles her even if Michael Douglas isn't allowed to. *Disclosure* didn't push any of my buttons except the one marked "Lobby."★

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We will be able to help you solve framing needs right up until Christmas eve and of course the New Year. We have precut mats, clip frames, and sectional frames for the last minute do-it-yourselfer.

Hart Gallery

This year we have new work from Scott Prior, Jamie Young, Jeremiah Patterson, Mallory Lake, Jan Norman, Bill Rohan, Nanny Vonnegut and others.

Guild Studio School

The January, February, March catalog will be out this week. Lots of new offerings for the cold winter months ahead.

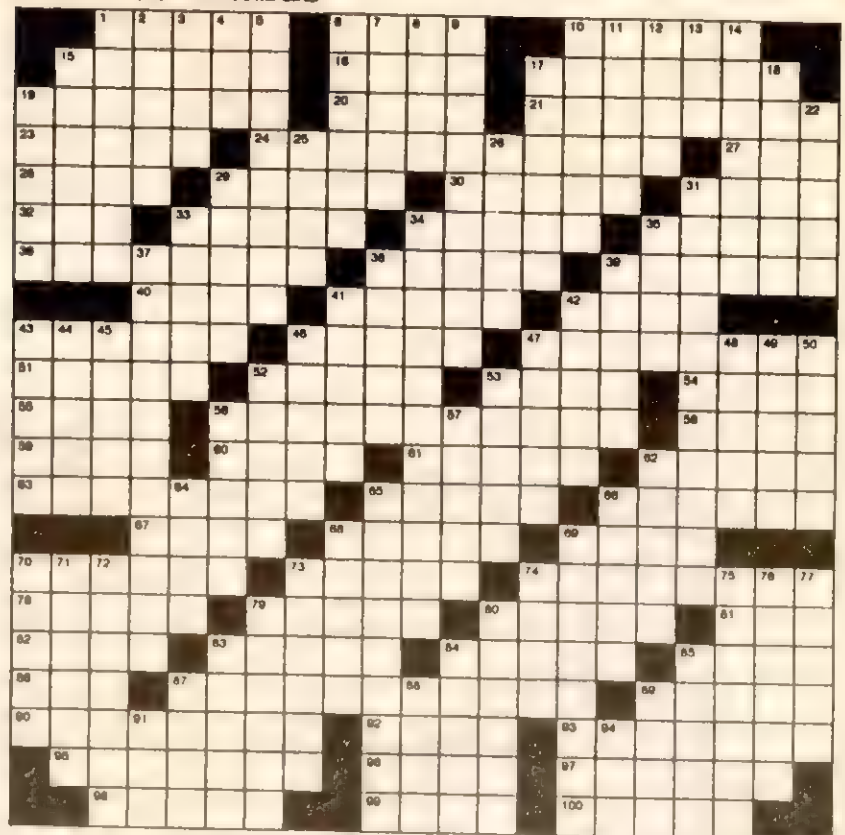
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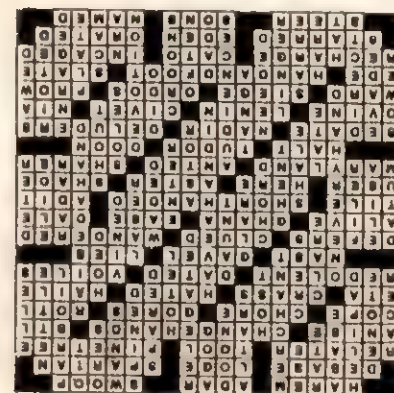
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ACROSS

DOWN

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Oriental household | 59 Right to property: | 1 Flight landing | 47 Made way slowly |
| 6 Jewish month | 60 Hither | 2 Reduce in rank | 48 Police detection |
| 10 Sudden descent | 61 Unpretentious flower | 3 Fixed charge | 49 Suppress |
| 15 Adulterate | 62 Screen | 4 Compass pt. | 50 Stop |
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| 17 Undaunted | 64 Contributed a share | 6 Platforms | 52 Join |
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| 20 Awl or laibe | 66 Cease moving | 8 Excitedly | 54 John Jacob |
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| abbr. | 71 Those who beguile | 13 Bauxite and lithium | 59 Former coin of India |
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| 36 Fragrant | 80 Netherlands city | 22 Germish plant | 68 Cui |
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| 41 Madist | 84 energy | 26 Dug | 72 Customarily |
| 42 Is supine | 85 Roman statesman | 27 Universally | 73 Baseball or |
| 43 Postpones | 86 Cooped up, var. | 28 Subdue | vegetable |
| 44 Pointed out solution | 87 Performed leading | 29 Ivy-covered | 74 Long-eared mammal |
| to mystery | 88 Famous garden | 30 I flash | 75 Federal port |
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| 51 Vibrant | 90 Direct | 32 I flash | 77 Chapeau |
| 52 West African | 91 Propagand | 33 I flash | 78 FDR legislation |
| republic | 92 Thine | 34 I flash | |
| 53 Serenity | | 35 I flash | |
| 54 Lowland | | 36 I flash | |
| 55 Roof material | | 37 I flash | |
| 56 Help wanted | | 38 I flash | |
| 57 Cotter's access | | 39 I flash | |



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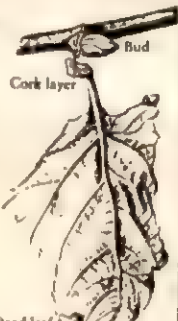
Jeph Shaw
Grade 4
Teacher:
Meg Gallagher
Fort River School Annex
Amherst

Dear A2Z,

Why do the leaves change color and then fall off the tree?

FALLING LEAVES

Losing their leaves in autumn helps deciduous trees to conserve water in winter. Food "pipes" to the stem are sealed; food is stored for next year's bud. The leaf is sealed off from the stem; the chlorophyll that makes the leaf green breaks down and hidden colors are seen.



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Gravlax	5.95	Japanese Chicken Wings	4.95
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Café Salad Vinaigrette	\$3.95	Wilted Spinach & Parmesan	\$4.95
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Roasted Vegetables w/ Whole Garlic Cloves	2.95	Ratatouille	2.95

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Spicy Noodles w/ Shrimps and Vegetables	app/entree
Yolanda w/ Shitake & Portabella Mushrooms & Kale	7.95/13.95
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Yolanda w/ Garlic, Herbs & Parmesan	7.95/13.95
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	6.95/12.95

Noodle entrees are served with Café Salad

Entrees

Sri dankan Stew w/ Basmati Rice	\$12.95
Risotto w/ Mushrooms, Butternut Squash & Fennel	13.95
Salmon & Vegetables baked "en papillote" w/ Potato Soufflé	16.95
Swordfish Provençal w/ Potato Soufflé	17.95
Chicken w/ Apples & Hazelnuts - Yolanda & Herbs	13.95
Duck in Sauteur w/ Root Vegetables & Egg Noodles	16.95
A Small Filet Mignon w/ Mushrooms, Kale & Potato Soufflé	16.95
Two Small Filet Mignon...	20.95
Roast loin of Pork w/ Kale & Rosemary Roasted Potatoes (FRI. & SAT.)	16.95

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

GLB EVENTS/INFO

Lesbian Studies in the United Kingdom will be discussed by author Sally Munt at UMass's Campus Center room 917, on December 14, noon - 1:30 p.m. Call 545-4824 for more information.

To give or receive information about gay, lesbian, or bisexual events, resources, counseling, 5-college groups announcements and more, call **LAMDA** the UMass Program for GLB Concerns' 24-hour information line, at 54-LAMDA (545-2632).

The UMass Program for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns seeks UMass graduate and undergraduate students with work study for positions in the program. For more information call 545-4824.

Blatant, a monthly newsletter of events at UMass and in the area gay community, is free to any Five College address, other subscriptions are \$4 - \$7 on a sliding scale. Call 545-4824 for more information.

The Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus is open to new members and is having an exciting 1994 - 95 season. For additional information contact the PVGMC at 586-1775.

LEAH (Lesbian Education And Health, 586-2016) offers free comprehensive physical exams, mammograms and breast health education to lesbians.

Discussion/Support Group for gay and bisexual men Fridays 7:30 - 9 p.m. in Room 311, 16 Center Street in Northampton. Call 585-5819.

Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics therapy group meets on Tuesday evenings in Amherst. Call LifeCourse Counseling Center at 253-2822.

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Therapy Group meets on Thursday evenings in Amherst. Call LifeCourse Counseling Center at 253-2822.

For information about a **Gay and Bisexual Men's Therapy Group** call LifeCourse Counseling Center at 253-2822.

Exploring Your Sexual Orientation is an ongoing group for anyone wanting to discuss sexuality in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Meets Tuesday evenings. Call LifeCourse Counseling Center at 253-2822 for more information.

Gay Teens Pioneer Valley Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth Project welcomes new members. Teen support group (under 21) and mentor program. Northampton-based. Call 24 hours 584-4213.

Out Now Teen Group of Springfield, a support, educational, and recreational group for gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens or those questioning their sexuality, meets Fridays 3:30 - 5 p.m. in Springfield. Call LifeCourse Counseling Center (253-2822).

DANCING

The **Hooked on Swing Society of Western Massachusetts** will hold a swing dance event at the St. Brigid's Catholic Church Parish Center in Amherst on December 17 from 8:30 - 11:30 (beginners lesson at 7:30). Call 529-0437 for more information.

DanceKinetics a combination of yoga, aerobics, and meditation. Mondays 6 - 7:15 p.m. at East Street Studio and Thursdays 7 - 8:15 p.m. in Greenfield. Call (413) 774-3281 for more information.

A class in **Contact Improvisation** in which dancers with disabilities and able-bodied dancers explore creativity with touch and movement, is being offered through Amherst Leisure Services. Call (413) 256-4065 to register.

Deadline for calendar submissions is the Monday one week before publication. Please direct all material to **Calendar Editor, Optimist Publications, 13 Old South St., Northampton, MA 01060.**

The Barn Studio in Amherst announces its fall schedule of classes for adults and children. Offerings range from yoga to modern dance to Y.E.S. (Youth Empowerment & Safety Program) and much more. Call Director Mindi Sahner at 253-3008 for information.

Scandinavian Dance every first and third Thursday at 8 p.m. at the East Street Studio in Hadley. Call 586-4385 or 536-8760 for further information.

Improvisational Dance every Wednesday 8:15 - 10:30 p.m. at East Street Studio. All levels are welcome. For further information call 256-8627 or 624-3709.

Beginning and Intermediate Yoga Classes For more information call 586-3259.

Jazzercise has classes at various times in Deerfield, Greenfield, and Sunderland, for all levels of fitness. Child care is now available for the Sunderland morning classes. Call (413) 665-7130 for more information.

Amherst International Folkdancing at the Bangs Community Center in Amherst 8 - 10 p.m. every Friday night. Call Eva and Gene at 549-6748 or Candy and Dennis at 256-0188.

Come learn the two-step with "Doc" Haggerty, along with other line and freestyle dances, at the Northeast American School of Dance in Northampton every Tuesday and Thursday 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Call 584-8521 for more information.

PERFORMANCES

Smith College presents a **Festival of One-Acts** from December 14 - 16 in the Stage Right Space. For information call 585-ARTS.

Double Edge will present **the Song of Songs** December 16 at 8 p.m. in Ashfield. For more information call (617) 254-4228.

The **Berkshire Opera** presents an **encore recital** on December 17 at 8 p.m. Call Peter Bergman for more information at (413)-243-1343.

The Arcadia Players will present Handel's **The Messiah** December 16 - 18 at various locations. Call (413) 586-8686 for information.



Understanding Trees

Other Side of the Tree Line: Portraits of Trees by Elicia Heller will be on exhibit at the Book Mill in Montague through December 31. Heller is a Hampshire College graduate and Leverett resident who has been photographing trees in this area for ten years. Heller, who recently began to hand-color her black and white photographs with oil paints, captures trees responding to humans' intervention with nature. Heller's unique vision encourages one to see and understand trees in a unique way. Call (413) 548-8065 for more information.

—Melinda Webber

Benjamin Sears, baritone, and Bradford Connor, piano, will play **Rest You Merry: Songs for Christmas** at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute on December 18 at 4 p.m. Call 458-9545 for information.

The Bennington Manonettes will perform **The Nutcracker** at Venable Hall of North Adams State College on December 18 at 4 p.m. For information call (413) 664-4511.

The Moscow Ballet will perform **the Nutcracker** December 28 - 31 at the Paramount Theatre in Springfield. For more information call (203) 669-4446.

The Hampshire College Theater will perform **Crossroads**, a play directed by David Title, at the Mainstage Theater at Emily Dickinson Hall at Hampshire College, December 15 - 17 at 8 p.m. Call 549-4600, x5351.

The Western New England Storyteller's Guild will be celebrating their **Annual Winter Solstice Concert: The Coming of the Light** at the Northampton Center for the Arts on December 17 at 7 p.m.

Photographing in the American Southwest a collection of interior landscapes by Ken Kippen will be on display through December 15 at the Pahana Gallery (584-2727) in Northampton.

Residential Arts, a program of The Fine Arts Center at UMass, will present the **15th Annual Graduate Group Show** at Hampden Gallery December 8 - 18. For information call 545-2804.

Other Side of the Tree Line a collection of nature portraits by Elicia Heller will be displayed at the Montague Book Mill through December 31.

Yet in Memory: Gifts to the Department of Prints and Drawings from the Late Jeffrey Shedd, a collection of drawings and prints from the fifteenth to twentieth century, will be on exhibit at Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute through December 18. For information call 458-9545.

Zone Art Center presents two exhibitions through December 18. **Three Born** by Albert Piarr and **Paintings and Drawings** by William Brovelli. Call 732-1995 for information.

The Berkshire Museum presents a lecture on **Woodcuts, Engravings, and Etchings** on December 28, 1 - 2 p.m. Call (413) 443-7171.

Herter Art Gallery at the University of Massachusetts presents three exhibitions: **Saints and Sanctuaries** an installation by Paula Hodecker, **Fair Ground** paintings by Stuart Elster, and **In Transit** life-size woodcuts by Carlos Cruz Corras.

The exhibit will run through December 22. **Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Blue Ribbon Paintings** is on display through December 22 at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum. Information is available at 538-2245.

Five Artists at Amherst College will be exhibited in the Mead Art Museum through December 23.

Modern Impulse - Russia, France, and America: 1890 - 1950 will be shown through December 23 at the Mead Art Museum, Amherst College. Call 542-2335 for information.

Arts West a group exhibition by Western Massachusetts artists, will be displayed in the Forbes Library Gallery from December 2 - 30.



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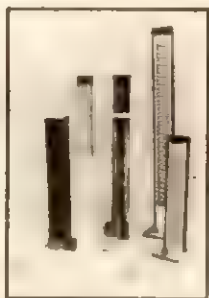


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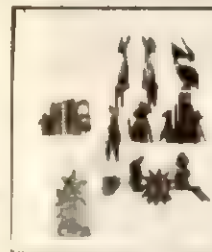
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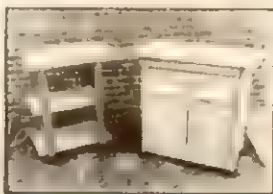
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Williams College Museum of Art presents **The Field Room in Context: American Art 1860-1900** through December 31. For information call (413) 597-2429.

Delay in Glass: A View of Duchamp's Green Box will be on exhibit at the Williams College Museum of Art through December 31. Call 597-2429 for information.

The Springfield Library and Museums will present a month of special exhibitions and activities based on a **Victorian Holiday** theme, through December 31. For information call 739-3871.

The Northampton Center for the Arts will present **1,2,3....x10: Works in Sequence** by area college faculty through January 1. For information call 584-7327.

Worcester Art Museum presents **Heritage of the Land: Contrasts in Native American Art and Life** through January 8. For information call (508) 799-4406.

On view at the Sterling and Francine Clark Institute are the exhibits **A Golden Harvest: Paintings by Adam Pynacker** and **Altered States: Conservation, Analysis, and the Interpretation of Works of Art**. For information call (413) 458-9545.

Miracles of Mexican Folk Art: Retablos and Ex-Votos, an exhibition of rare 18th and 19th century Mexican folk painting, will be on display at the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts from through January 8. Information is available at 739-3871.

The Williams College Museum of Art will host **Sadhu, Hindu Holy Men: Photographs by Kevin Bubrick** through January 22. For information call 597-2429.

New works by contemporary impressionist **Alice Mongeau** will be on exhibit in the Sales and Rental Gallery of the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts through January 24, 1995. For additional information call (413) 739-3871.

The Connecticut Valley Historical Society presents an exhibition on **Pilgrims and Adventurers** at the Springfield Library and Museum from December 15 through the end of March. Call 739-3871 for data.

Historic Deerfield will exhibit children's story tale miniature at the Hall Tavern Museum and holiday decorations in the 1799 Asa Stebbins House until January 31. For information call 774-5581.

The Worcester Art Museum presents **Insights: A Distant View**, an exhibition of traditional lacquerware, which will run through February 26, 1995. For information call (508) 799-4406.

The Connecticut Valley Historical Museum has opened a new gallery dedicated to the significant role that the Springfield played in the development of the fur and fur industry. For information call (413) 739-3871.

For a complete listing of **events for children and adults** at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, call 443-7171.

For a listing of **films, demonstrations, and exhibitions** at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, call (617) 267-9300 ext. 448. (Sampler: The museum is currently featuring works by Willem de Kooning and Picasso.)

A collection of holiday trees, decorated and contributed by community groups, will be on display through January 22 at Holyoke Heritage State Park. For information call 534-1723.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

The Northampton Center for the Arts and First World Images presents a children's adaptation of **Black Nativity** by Langston Hughes on December 18 at 2 p.m. Call 584-7327 for more information.

The Children's Museum in Holyoke presents **Sea Monsters: Dinosaurs of the Deep** from December 16-April 22, 1995. The museum also hosts a wide variety of children's activities on a regular basis, call (413) 536-7048 for more information.

Register now for a **Creative Writing Workshop for Kids** facilitated by Anna Kirwan-Vogel. For information call 584-5264.

The Children's Museum in Holyoke hosts Small Fry Day every Friday morning from 9:30 a.m. - noon. For information call 536 KIDS.

Boston's Museum of Fine Arts offers youth group visits and guided tours by appointment. For brochure and reservations call (617) 267-9300 ext. 310. Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Call the Children's Room (739-3871) at the Springfield City Library for dates and times of **story hour** for children.

A pottery class for children meets Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Valley Arts Center. Call (413) 739-3871 for more information.

Whizbang Theater Arts Programs provide a variety of programs for people aged 13 and older. Call (413) 739-3871 for more information.

Call the Boston Children's Museum's What's Up Line for hours, exhibits, and weekly activity listings. (617) 426-8855. Hours available at the telephone.

Regional YMCA's Kids **Bear Hill Childcare Program**, which offers year-round care for children ages two months - five years. Contact Holly Martineau at the YMCA, 584-7086.

Aristar Calendar Company, in cooperation with the Children's Wish Foundation International, has launched a **national contest to select youngsters** to be showcased in a 1996 "Kids" calendar. For information about entering, call (212) 986-4450.

POETRY/PROSE

Sean Vernon has set **poetry by Emily Dickinson** to music; he will perform at the Jones Library in Amherst on December 15 at 7:30 p.m., supporting the release of his album, *Wider than the Sky*. Call 256-4094 or 256-4090 for more information.



Petite History

A child's world of miniatures — including scenes from children's dolls, toys, literature, and fashions — will be featured in the 1760 Hall Tavern during Historic Deerfield's 1994 holiday exhibit "Merrymaking, Miniatures and Makebelieve." The exhibit will be on view through January 31 in the 325-year-old western Massachusetts village of Deerfield. To arrange group tours or for more information call Nancy Bell at (413) 774-5581.

— Melinda Webber

more information.

Two national **poetry contests** with substantial cash prizes are open to area poets. The Free Poetry Contest has a January 1, 1995 deadline, call Dr. Carolyn Vanderbilt (310) 572-6616 for more information. The National Library of Poetry has an open poetry contest with a December 31, 1994 deadline, call Pamela Roberts for more information.

Open poetry readings at the Black Sheep Café in Amherst take place on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Call host Ted Melnychuk for details at 256-4650.

Amherst Writers and Artists certified workshop leader **Patricia Lewis Sackrey** offers Saturday writing retreats at her mountain home in Westhampton. For further information, call Patricia at (413) 527-5819.

Submissions wanted for the new Valley literary magazine. Short stories, poems, black and white drawings (copies only) to P.O. Box 540, Hadley, MA, 01038. Include SASE for response.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

Parents Anonymous has started a group in Northampton for those who want to improve their relationships with their children, Thursdays 6 - 7:30 p.m. Call (800) 882-1250.

A Course in Miracles study group meets Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:45 a.m. Call David P. Carney, MSW, at 253-2902.

Surviving Grief ten week programs held in Amherst offer support through education and sharing for those who have lost a loved one. Call Joan Gibson at 253-3133.

Contact Western Mass. Intergroup Office (532-2111) for **Alcoholics Anonymous** information, meeting times or locations.

AL-ANON/ALATEEN, support for those whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. For meeting times and locations, call 253-5261.

LECTURES

A lecture on **Versailles** will be held by Smith College professor John Moore at the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts (733-4214) on December 15 at 12:15 p.m.

A lecture to help parents deal with their children's adolescence will be held with psychologist Anthony Wolf on December 15 at Holyoke Hospital. Call 534-2532.

A lecture entitled **"Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine"** will be presented by Dr. Balwant Khalsa on December 16, 7 - 9 p.m. in Amherst. Call 256-4995 to pre-register.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

The Valley Women's Martial Arts, Inc., will hold an **introductory self-defense workshop** for women and girls on December 17, 2 - 5 p.m. Call 527-0101.

Lisa Falkenthal will lead a **Boxwood Tree Centerpiece** Workshop at Annie's Garden and Gift Store (549-6359) in North Amherst on December 17, 10 a.m. - noon.

The George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum (739-3871) will hold **Christmas vacation activities** December 27-30 including making your own dollhouse and Mexican folk art picture frame.

The George Walter Vincent Smith Museum in Springfield will hold **studio art and art appreciation classes** for children and adults this winter. For a brochure or for more information call 733-4214.

The University of Massachusetts Division of Continuing

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CELTICS vs ORLANDO
SHAQ BOSTON GARDEN, FEB. 23

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The University of Massachusetts Division of Continuing Education (545-2414) will offer spring semester classes in languages, health, food, and fitness, art and photography writing, and business and financial planning.

Longmeadow Writers and Artists offers Creative Writing for adults and children led by Barbara Cramer. Call (413) 567-8457.

The Ennave Breath Works will hold **Breathing Space** 7:30 - 9 p.m. every Tuesday in Amherst. Call 253-2902.

Iyengar Yoga Classes will be offered at Blue Moon Studios on Monday mornings in Conway Center. Call 369-4456.

The Leverett Recreation Commission presents **Yoga Classes** every Tuesday night at the Leverett Town Hall. Call Susan Valentine at 548-9810.

The Northampton Yoga Center (585-5728) offers **daily yoga classes**, ongoing workshops, yoga therapy and counseling.

Valley Women's Martial Arts, Inc. (527 0101) offers ongoing beginner classes for new students starting the first full week of every month.

OUTDOORS

Arcadia Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary will present **Winter is for the Birds** on December 18, 2 - 4 p.m. Call 584-3009 to pre-register.

Arcadia Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary will have a **Solstice Celebration** on December 21, 5 - 6 p.m. Call 584-3009.

Historic Deerfield offers carriage rides, daily walking tours, and the beautiful Blake Channel Meadow Walk. For information, call 774-5581.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center (659-3714) offers tours, boat rides, and special programs, and features historic exhibits, hiking trails, camping, and canoe rental.

The **Amherst Astronomy Association** conducts public observatory observing at 9 p.m. every clear Saturday in December at the Amherst College Wider Observatory. Call 256-6234.

HEALTH/BODY

The Stroke Support Group will meet December 17, 9 p.m. at Mercy Hospital. Call 748-6801.

Breast Cancer Support group will meet December 17, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Mercy Hospital. Call 748-908.

ASSIST (Amputee Support System In Step Together) will meet December 20 at 7 p.m. at Mercy Hospital.

Two Support Groups for HIV-Positive People are ongoing in the area. Call Kevin McVeigh at 586-2016.

Ongoing Parkinson's Disease Support Group has two different meeting times and locations on Tuesday evenings. Call Ruthie (584-2192).

Family and friends of cancer patients meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the Church of the Apostles in Belchertown. Call Joan Gibson at 253-3133.

Give the "Gift of Life," by becoming a blood donor at Mercy Hospital's Blood Bank. Call 748-9511 to make an appointment. You must be 18 or older.

OPPORTUNITIES

Mount Holyoke College (538-2987) will hold **Winterfest '94**, an annual coming together which recognizes and honors the common goals of religious holidays traditionally celebrated in December, on December 16 from 3 - 5 p.m.

Commonwealth Opera of Northampton and Yankee Candle Co. of South Deerfield will present a **sing along production of Handel's Messiah** on December 18 at 7 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton. Call 586-5026.

The Historic Northampton Holiday Shop is open for its third season through December 23. Assorted gifts of "local flavor" will be sold. Call 584-6011.

There will be a **Holiday Gift Wrap Booth** at Caldor's of Northampton to benefit the Visiting Nurse Association through December 25. For information or to volunteer to wrap gifts, call 584-1060.

The International Language Institute (586-7569) is offering a **one-week trip to Cancun** January 28 - February 4. The trip includes airfare, accommodations, and 25 hours of Spanish classes.

Purchase **Forest Park Zoological Society memberships**. Funds will be used for animal care, food, and veterinary care during the upcoming winter month. Call 773-2251.

The American Cancer Society's 1995 Golf Pass is available for holiday gift giving. It includes rounds from 25 Massachusetts golf courses. Call 1-800-952-7664.

The Jones Library English as a Second Language Center (256-4090) needs volunteers to teach English and basic skills to adult immigrants. No experience necessary.

The Homework Club needs volunteers for an after-school program designed to help children from non-English-speaking families do their homework. Call the Cambodian American Association at 253-0696.

The Holyoke Tutor/Mental Program (534-3376), sponsored by the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, is recruiting volunteers interested in helping adult learners improve their English skills.

Volunteer evenings or on special projects with staff and guests of **Northampton's shelter for homeless adults**. For more information call Priscilla Drucker at 586-6001 or 584-7329.



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10AM TO NOON	FOOD FOR THOUGHT A PROGRAM FOR ANYONE WHO ENJOYS FOOD	CAR CARE CORNER (UNTIL 10:45) PRESIDENT CLINTON (UNTIL 11)	CHURCH (10-11) POLKA SHOW
NOON TO 1PM	INFORMATION HOUR LIFESTYLE FEATURES PLUS HEAVY LOCAL NEWS	S P O R T S	(11-11)
1PM TO 3PM	BRUCE WILLIAMS AMERICA'S FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ADVICE TALKSHOW HOST	P R O G R A M M I N G	S P O R T S
3PM TO 6PM	DAVID BRENNER COMEDY TALK AND SPECIAL GUESTS	O G R A M M I N G	
6PM TO 7PM	NEWS & SPECIAL PROGRAMMING		SOUNDS OF SINATRA (6-8) ON LINE TONIGHT (8-10)
7PM TO 10PM	TOM LEYKIS SHOW	T A L K	
10PM TO 2AM	BRUCE WILLIAMS	K N O W I T H T H E S H O W	TALK
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Treat Yourself To Back-Pain Relief

When Americans see a doctor, their problem is most often a cold. But running a close second is acute low-back pain, for which the national medical bill is \$24 billion annually. A large part of this bill is for surgery, such as fusion of the lower (lumbar) spine. The rate of surgery for low-back pain is twice as high in this country as in other industrialized nations.

According to Dr. Richard Deyo of the University of Washington, who heads a five-year study of back-pain treatment, "these statistics

are sobering" because lumbar spinal surgery is frequently unsuccessful. Surgical rates vary widely within this country. For example, they

vary sevenfold among the largest counties of the state of Washington. Such discrepancies often indicate that something is amiss.

Contributing to the rush to surgery has been the widespread use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), a relatively new diagnostic technique that uses magnetic fields and radio waves. An MRI reveals spinal architecture accurately and in much more detail than an X-ray. But what may look like a trouble spot often is not. Abnormal-looking disks in the lumbar spine are almost as likely to show up in people with no back pain as in those with pain. That is, abnormalities that show up in MRIs are not necessarily related to back pain. And some people with severe back pain have normal-looking MRIs.

In a study led by Dr. Maureen Jensen and published last July in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 98 people with no

back pain were scanned. Almost two-thirds of them proved to have some spinal abnormality, such as protruded, herniated, or degenerated disks. Such abnormalities, the study concluded, may simply be coincidental — meaning that they don't cause the pain. In an editorial accompanying the study, Dr. Deyo urged doctors not to rush to use MRIs to diagnose patients with sciatica or uncomplicated acute low-back pain (that is, pain not due to underlying illness or injury and not involving nerve damage or paralysis). The best plan is to try more conservative treatments first.

MANAGEMENT SKILLS

In another study that appeared last July in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, "practice

styles" of doctors treating back pain in a large HMO were compared. Doctors who routinely prescribed bed rest and prescription drugs were significantly less successful with their patients than those who taught patients how to deal with their own back problems through exercise and lifestyle changes and who prescribed drugs less frequently. In addition, patients seemed to benefit from being told that back pain is amenable to self-care, that it usually goes away in a reasonable time, and that even though

it becomes chronic in some cases, it's manageable. Patients taught self-care did better and were also better satisfied.

Dr. Deyo recommends the following for acute low-back pain:

•Brief bed rest. More than a day or two in bed is usually counterproductive.

•Nonprescription painkillers such as aspirin or ibuprofen. If your doctor prescribes them, muscle relaxants can be used for a defined period (usually one week).

•Begin walking as soon as possible.

•If you are overweight, try to lose weight by cutting calories from your diet and exercising more.

•Some studies have shown short-term benefits of chiropractic care for acute low-back pain. If you decide to consult a chiropractor, ask your doctor for a referral (and once there, don't succumb

to suggestions to get full-body X-rays).

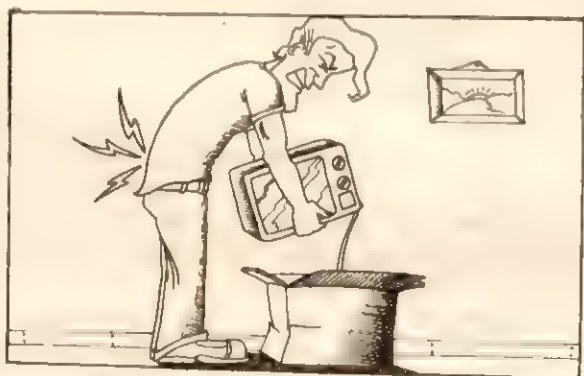
•Don't consent to traction, which has not been shown to be beneficial for low-back pain.

•If your doctor suggests surgery, get a second opinion.

•Don't smoke — smoking seems to aggravate back pain.

Rarely, persistent or severe low-back pain can be a sign of some underlying illness (such as cancer, infections, or joint disease), and if your condition worsens, you may need further diagnosis or even an MRI. But within 12 weeks, according to Dr. Deyo, nearly 95% of back-pain patients have returned to work. "A bit of reassurance about the likelihood of rapid recovery can go a long way toward helping these patients recuperate."

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Illustrations by Steve Arango



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Emotional Fitness

by Tom Raymond, MSW

Dear Tom,

I've been going out with the same woman for several years now. Although we get along pretty well, I haven't felt ready to take the next step and tie the knot. She says I'm afraid of commitment because my parents got divorced and that because of that experience I don't have any faith that relationships can last. We moved in together last year and things get rocky from time to time, but she says most of the problems would go away if we simply made a commitment to be together.

Sometimes I think she's right, partly because I don't know anyone else I'd rather be with, but when I think of that knot it feels like it's going to be tied around my neck. Do I need to explore the effects of my parents' divorce or try and slip out of the noose before she pulls the trap door?

— Going to the Chapel?

The fear of commitment should not be underestimated. Your parents' divorce is just one of a thousand reasons you might have for believing that the making and maintaining of an intimate relationship is easier said than done.

The problem with reducing anxiety about commitment to a phobia is that it assumes "normal" people take such decisions in stride. I believe it's just the opposite. People who assume their relationship

will work simply because they love each other are not anxious enough.

Rather than debate the issue of commitment, I'd explore the issue of intimacy. A shorthand way of making sure you touch the right bases is to include the three F's — fun, fights, and future.

What do you do for fun? What's hap-

and use it to hold up your pants. You'll have done all you can to assure your shot at success. The fear that's left comes with the territory.

Dear Tom,

My parents are nearing retirement. Instead of enjoying themselves, they are bickering

themselves.

Preparing for retirement takes as much time and energy as preparing for any other career change. Couples who spent years developing a love of trout fishing, square dancing, or skydiving have an advantage over couples whose leisure pursuits were confined to the activities of their children.

However, there's no time like the present. If you get the opportunity, see if you can nudge them in the direction of some mutually agreeable activity. President and Mrs. Carter build homes for the homeless. Other couples sell their homes and chase one another around in RVs.

This does not mean that your parents won't need solo activities, or that life will be a bed of roses once they're hammering nails for a good cause. (I'm sure Jimmy and Rosalyn go at it from time to time.)

Still, the biggest problem your parents face is how to replace their jobs and parenting with equally rewarding leisure pursuits. If they don't find something soon, they'll end up pursuing each other like hens in a chicken coop — not a pretty sight.

Tom Raymond, MSW, is a licensed clinical social worker who provides individual, family, and couples therapy at his office in Northfield, Massachusetts. Direct your questions to: Emotional Fitness, Optimist Publications, 13 Old South Street, Northampton, MA 01060. ★

Reality continues to be the third member of every relationship no matter what phase of the life cycle you're in.

pening in bed, in the kitchen, or on Sunday afternoons? Couples who discover they really don't enjoy each other's company should cut their losses and resume their searches.

Next comes fighting. How do you handle the inevitable conflicts and disagreements that plague all relationships? Can you talk them out, come up with compromises, and follow through with solutions?

And what about the future? Have you discussed in detail where you want to live and work, or whether your plans include children? What about the bank account — are you going to save for a condo in Florida or a cottage in Maine?

If you make it through these conversations you can take the rope off your neck

more and acting like stubborn five-year-old children. Is this some kind of double senility setting in or could they really be headed for a divorce after happily raising four children? In either case, is there a role for me to play in getting things going in a better direction?

— Sad to See

Both of the possibilities you cite are possible but not probable. I'd put my money on the anxiety surrounding their rapidly approaching retirements. Reality continues to be the third member of every relationship no matter what phase of the life cycle you're in. The fact that your parents did a bang-up job of raising four kids does not mean they'll be able to handle the new reality of having nothing to do but "enjoy"

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U Mass HOOPS!



With GEORGE MILLER *The Voice of The UMass Minutemen*

After an all-too-brief stay at the top of the charts, the University of Massachusetts Minutemen hit their heads on the ceiling, losing to seventh-ranked Kansas 81-75 at the inaugural John R. Wooden classic in Anaheim, California. It wasn't the heady enthusiasm which goes with a #1 national ranking that did UMass in, nor the 3,000-mile road trip to play in the prestigious event, but rather a solid and balanced Jayhawks team which did unto the Minutemen as they themselves have done unto many an opponent in recent years.

Point guard Derek Kellogg pointed out after the loss, "We can't expect Lou to get 35 points a night." And if not for Lou Roe, Kansas would have had it relatively easy against the Minutemen. Roe poured in 33 points — 20 in the first half alone — to give UMass a one-point lead at the break. He added 10 rebounds and was undoubtedly the best player on display at the Wooden Classic — but you're not going to win many basketball games going one-on-five, unless it's Shaquille O'Neal against a

team of giggling six-year-olds.

My colleague Marty Dobrow of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* has pointed out very accurately that this loss can be favorably compared to the last loss UMass suffered at home — a 76-75 setback at the hands of West Virginia on January 8, 1992. Four days earlier, UMass had posted a landmark victory over the then-unbeaten Oklahoma in Springfield, a win which gave the Minutemen their first-ever national ranking, at #25. Fast forward nearly three years, to UMass' thrashing of defending national champion Arkansas, which propelled the Minutemen into the top spot nationally — a #1 ranking which they kept for only a week.

Upon further examination of those two losses nearly three years apart, it was nearly the identical play — pulled off by both West Virginia and Kansas — which burned the Minutemen time and again. The Mountaineers hit over the top of the UMass

defense with lob passes for easy lay-ups, while the Jayhawks threw the lob even higher over the defense for several deflating alley-oop dunks. That allowed Kansas to break

away from a 53-53 tie midway through the second half, and to build up a 9-point lead before settling for a

6-point win.

John Calipari was quick to credit Kansas' players and coaches for doing just a flat-out better job, and equally quick to take the blame for not preparing his team the way he felt he should. Traditionally the Minutemen have been at their best with time to prepare for the big game — specifically five to seven days — but Kansas was able to turn UMass' own strengths back onto themselves. It's been pleasing to watch Lou Roe post huge numbers in the first couple of games, against top-flight teams and in nation-

al settings, but any time you look at a box score and find that Roe had to take 25 shots in a game, that's a pretty fair indicator that the Minutemen came up short. The considerable help he received against Arkansas was noticeably lacking against Kansas, and Roe won't keep this team at or near the top by himself, even with his wealth of talent.

If a #1 ranking is all you care about, then don't panic, because there's plenty of time to get it back. More important, though, is this team's necessity to play at a consistently high level without wilting in a spotlight that's brighter and hotter than ever before. And while many will now consider the victory over Arkansas to be somewhat cheapened (rightly or not), the Minutemen have made it abundantly clear that even the best teams in the land aren't playing nearly their best basketball in the first week of December.

George Miller is Sports Director on WHMP AM/FM. Listen to all UMass basketball games on WHMP. ★

Lou Roe won't keep this team at or near the top by himself, even with his wealth of talent.

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RC216
cc: W. Beabum, Regional Manager

HOOPS!

Vital Statistics

on...

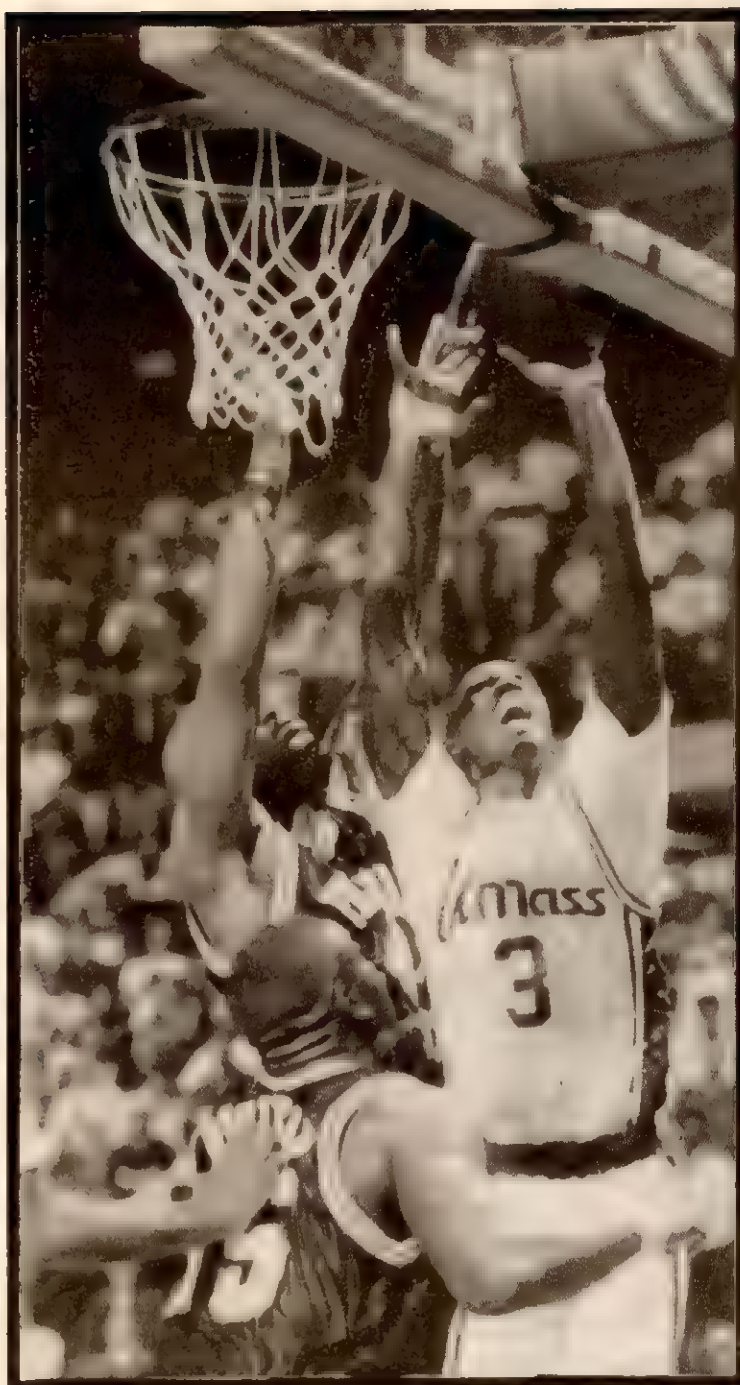
Dana Dingle

Vital Statistics on...

Dana Dingle

6'6" 212 lbs. Junior Forward

- Born 12/8/73
- Averaged 8.0 points and 6.2 rebounds last year
- Started in all but three games in 1993 - 94 season for the Minutemen
- Had a career-high 11 rebounds against Cleveland State and 10 points for a double-double in 1993 - 94
- In 1993 - 94 scored in double figures in six of the first ten games
- Named to the Pre-season NIT All-Tournament team after scoring a career-high 20 points against Kansas in last year's championship game
- Finished second on UMass's team in total rebounds for the 1993 - 94 season with 216
- As a freshman was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Freshman team



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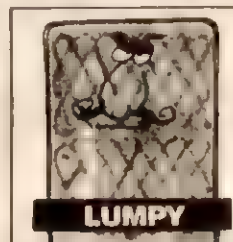
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by Chuck Shepherd

LEAD STORIES

In November, New York City police arrested the city's most notorious traffic scofflaw, Leroy Linen, 41, after he inadvertently gave them his real name when he was stopped for having only a crudely hand-lettered "license plate" on his car. Linen's driver's license has been suspended 633 times since 1990; when police entered his name into their computer, it took an hour and 45 minutes to print out all of his traffic violations. Still at large in the city are 340 others whose licenses have been suspended more than 100 times.

In a July article, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* described celebrated local artist Matthew Geraci, 35, whose show of "colorful, abstract" fish opened in a gallery in South Bend, Wash., recently. Geraci suffered "severe brain damage" in a 1989 automobile accident, from which he has largely recovered except for two conditions: (1) he sometimes stares aimlessly at things for hours at a time, and (2) he has suddenly acquired an artistic sense after a lifelong passion for nonartistic endeavors such as math. Recalled Geraci, of his first flash of artistic insight, during a 1992 therapy class: "I had eight colored pencils, and I just started to draw... what I saw in my mind." A University of Washington neuropsychiatrist said there is "nothing in the (medical) literature" to explain Geraci's condition.

GREAT ART

In July in Iowa City, Iowa, 26 pianists combined talents to play *Vexations* by French composer Eric Satie, consisting of a single sheet of music that must be played 840 consecutive times. The work is a single page of chords, with the admonition that it should be played "Very Slow." Each repetition lasts 90 seconds; the entire composition takes from 21 to 25 hours to play.

In February, artist Lars Kraemmer of Vancouver, British Columbia, emerged from a seven-week stint living in a 5-foot-by-5-foot box that had been built using five of his paintings. Kraemmer called his performance *Retreat* and said he saw dazzling colors in the total darkness — an inspiration that led him to develop a "new theory" of color during the seven weeks. "One thing it has done," said Kraemmer, "is put me at ease."

In March, in Stinson Beach, Calif., as publicity for his year-long campaign to collect enough brassieres to string across the Grand Canyon, the "conceptual artist" Ronnie Nicolino, along with 200 volunteers, created a two-mile-long sand sculpture consisting of 21,000 size 34C breasts. Nicolino denied he is obsessed with breasts. "In my case, it's not that serious," he said. "I can be detached enough to at least be an observer."

Among the specialized, small-market magazines recently appearing in Japan is *Combustible Garbage* (*Moeru Gomi*), by artist Tetsuo Ogawa, 22, consisting merely of a vinyl bag of garbage from his and his friends' apartments. He solicits people to let him clean their rooms and periodically "publishes" the results.

In May, a show at the Serpentine Gallery in London by British artist Damien Hirst featured his brutal animal pieces, including *Away From the Flock*, a lamb embalmed in a glass case (which sold for about \$37,000). In previous shows, he has featured *Mother and Child Divided* (a dead cow and calf bisected, with the innards in formaldehyde in a glass case), and a cow's head being devoured by maggots (an exhibit which had to be refreshed every 36 hours with a new head and maggots). In New York City in May, he will show skinned cows copulating.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

In August, several newspapers reported on the growing obsession abroad, especially in Japan, with Levi's blue jeans from the 1950s and 1960s. As in America, used jeans sell for more than new ones, but in Japan, vintage jeans bring as much as \$5,000 a pair. An Associated Press writer noted that trendy

Japanese magazines fuel the jeans market by providing readers with "detailed instructions on how to be hip." (Used, sweaty Air Jordan shoes from the 1980s sell for as much as \$800 a pair.)

The *New York Times* reported in August on the increased pressure from Muslim mullahs in Iran to outlaw the satellite TV dishes that bring in Western programming, which is more popular among many people than the three religious channels available locally. Among the most popular shows is *Baywatch*, quite an alternative in Iran, where even a woman's ankle cannot be exposed. Said one businessman, "We are addicted to shows like *Donahue*. Today, *Donahue* had on a guy who has an open relationship with his girlfriend.... We couldn't believe it. We never hear or talk about this kind of thing." (Iran permitted "live" broadcasts of World Cup soccer matches this year from the U.S., but only after deleting summer crowd scenes, which featured much female skin, and substituting winter crowd scenes, in which spectators were bundled up.)

In August, the government of the Malaysian state of Perlis announced it would crack down on conservative female Muslim physicians who use pencils or pens or long objects to examine male patients. Many

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Muslims believe it is a sin if a woman touches a man other than her husband.

In July in Portland, Maine, Judge Robert E. Crowley found a 39-year-old Afghan refugee guilty of sexual assault against his two-year-old son. A neighbor had seen the man kiss the boy's penis, but according to the man's lawyer, and about a dozen Afghans who attended the trial, that is accepted, and common, in Afghan culture as a show of affection. Crowley said the statute calls the action illegal even if not done for sexual pleasure.

Following news reports earlier in the year on health benefits, Japanese fish markets have been experiencing a run on tuna eyeballs. Nutritionists had reported that mice injected with an acid from the eyeballs had lower cholesterol and could find their way through mazes much faster. The eyes are a delicacy selling for around \$15 a can. Said one fish company executive, "Unfortunately, fish have only one pair of eyes."

On a trip to New York in January to receive a prestigious international sports award, Chinese running phenom Wang Junxia, 20, told reporters that her daily regimen consists of up to 22 miles of running and a diet that usually includes worms, extract of caterpillar fungus, and the blood of soft-shell turtles. Wang has broken so many world records that some suspected she was using illegal drugs, but tests have always turned up negative. Her coach, Ma Junren, insists her secret is the worm elixir, which he now bottles and sells worldwide, with revenues of at least \$1 million.

Since Sept. 20, health authorities estimate that several hundred people have died

in India of pneumonic plague, which had been absent from the country since 1966. Still, many Hindus in the country refused to kill rats, the most probable carrier of the plague. In Hindu mythology, the god

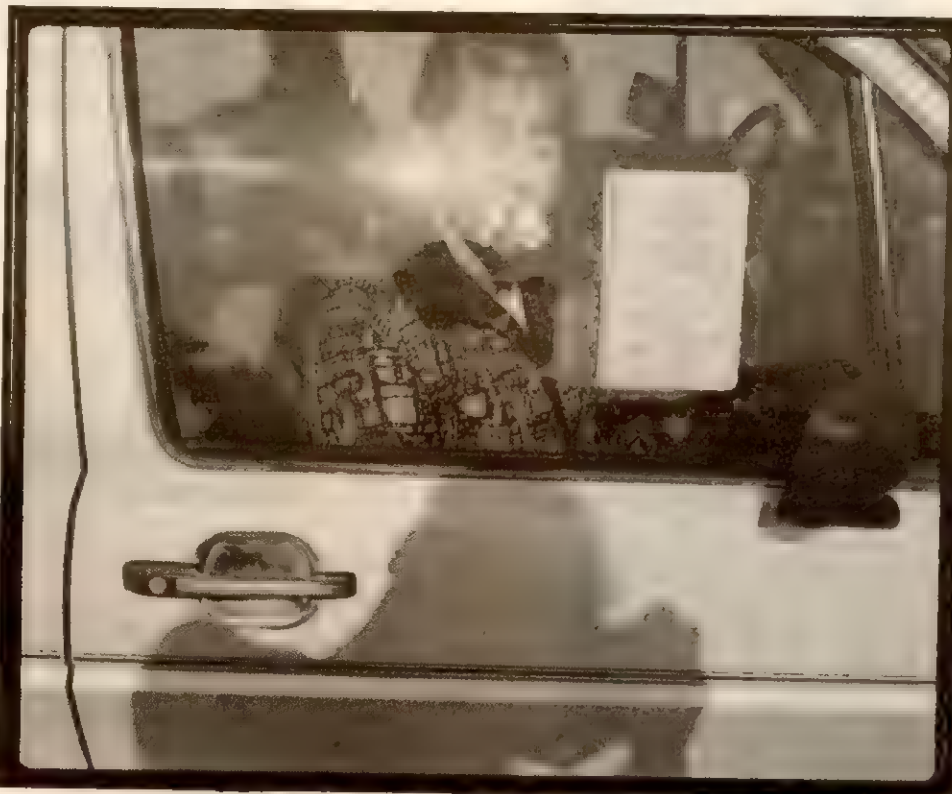


photo Tobey

Ganesh is accompanied by a rat wherever he travels, and worshippers still make their offerings on behalf of Ganesh and his little friend. Hindus have been seen taking rats from traps and merely releasing them away from their homes, hoping they will not return. In city parks in Calcutta, rats are fed much as pigeons are fed in the U.S. Said a retired government official in New Delhi, "The time has come for people to realize it is either us or the rat."

UNDIGNIFIED DEATHS

In November, a heavily intoxicated 24-year-old man in Garfield, N.J., died after he was run over by his own car that he was driving. He tumbled out while the car was

in reverse, landing so that the front wheel pinned his neck, suffocating him.

ELECTION RECAP

Robert Garner, who won the Republican nomination for Hawaii's congressional seat in September, dropped out of sight after that and missed the entire campaign before losing the election in November to incumbent Patsy Mink. The party hired private detectives to track him down but discov-

ered his address and phone number were invalid and that he had no credit history. One person who signed his original nominating petition said he thinks Garner is well and may be living on a boat.

After a state legislative candidates' forum in Wentworth, N.C., in October, the wife of the Republican challenger tore into the incumbent, Rep. Bertha "B" Holt, after accusing Holt of "smiling and making fun of my husband" during his speech. Said the wife, Cathy Miller: "I'd like to pull every white hair out of that [deleted in original story] head." Said candidate Ken Miller: "I think my wife is like any other female in a similar situation. She was defending her own."

In September, after six losing quixotic campaigns for parliament in Denmark, standup comedian Jacob Haugaard actually got elected. Among his campaign promises this time were good weather, better Christmas presents, guaranteed tail winds for all cyclists, and standard-size dust bags in vacuum cleaners.

SEEDS OF OUR DESTRUCTION

Reminding the public that the Endangered Species Act of 1973 applies to "mammals," two activist petitions were recently filed with government agencies urging that (1) black Americans and (2) Old Order Amish and Mennonites be given protection under the act. In the first, Milwaukee activists Bob Thompson and David Young told the *Milwaukee Sentinel* in September that since young black males are about 15 times more likely to be murdered than whites, some pristine wilderness should be established for their preservation. The U.S. Department of the Interior

continued on page 46

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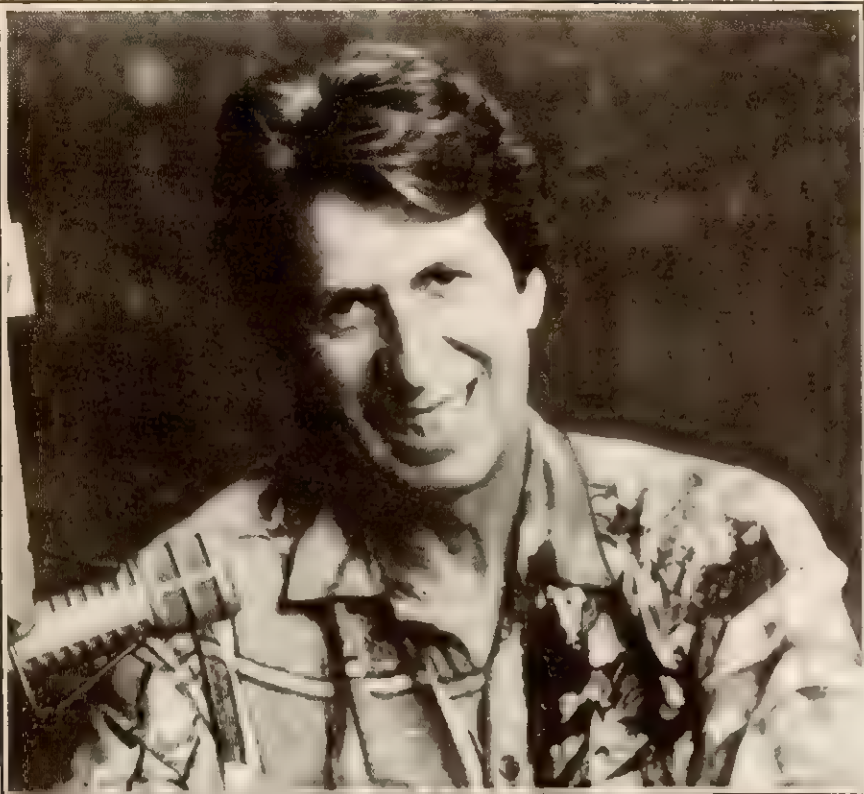
Wavy Gravy came to the Squires' Smoke and Game Club on a Thursday, when Tom McClung was at the piano. He ate ribs and drank a martini. He said they were the best.

(By the way, he wants you to know the ice cream was named after him...he did not name himself after the ice cream, as one young customer thought.)

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WORDS AND PICTURES

continued from page 19

dents," Russell explains, "dollar days, and things like that. Museum members will obviously always receive free admission. I know we have been free for a long time, but I feel that we are still accessible to everybody. We're expanding tremendously in size, there is a great deal more to offer. I think that people will be very receptive to it. There will also be more that people can take with them — not just learn, but physically take with them — that will be part and parcel of that admission charge. I definitely feel that with

this new format we can better accomplish our goal — to dispel misconceptions about this art form, and show just how wide a scope this genre of art can cover." ★

The new Words and Pictures Museum will open to the public in conjunction with the First Night activities in Northampton on December 31st. Admission will be free to those wearing a First Night Button. Call the Northampton Center for the Arts at 584-7327 for more First Night information.

WINE LETTER

continued from page 23

sheep-dip if served too cold. Italian whites taste like water and lemon juice if served in an ice bucket. Reds that are served too warm taste flat and burn the nostrils. Reds are meant to be served at cellar temperature and left on the dinner table. Whites should be taken out of the refrigerator and plunked on the table as well. The only thing that should be served in ice are bad champagnes and good sweet wines. By not paying attention to temperature, you may be losing or abusing the very appeal that you paid for in the first place. White wines as well as reds mature when opened; both will be more giving after being opened a little in advance. Many wines I have found tasted better the next day, while still others I have opened in the morning for an evening meal.

Number 3: Wine is made to go with food. If you are thirsty, drink water or fruit juice. If you are watching football while eating pretzels and potato chips, drink beer. If you want to get drunk, go out and buy a nip of vodka. Wine is made to be enjoyed, in moderation and in an atmosphere that heightens your senses rather than dulls them. It should bring out what is best in people, culture, and cuisine, so use it accordingly.

Number 2: Take ten minutes to learn the

lingo. Buy a Hugh Johnson *Wine Guide*, or any beginner's book on wine. This is sort of like a phrase book when you are a tourist. It will not allow you to speak in a conversation, but at least you will be able to understand the road signs. To know that Greek retsina is supposed to taste like pine resin or that "brut" on a champagne bottle is drier than "extra-dry" is helpful and will make you glad that you kept the book in your glove compartment.

Number 1: What is the number-one rule that will help you get a great bottle of wine, almost every time? Concentrate on what matters most: the goal. A wine should be a pleasing part of the meal. Do not worry about anything else. A good wine is a wine enjoyed. To find it, adhere to the advice listed above.

Although I am no expert on wine, this traveler has been down the wine road many times and wishes to pass these tips along. Anything else? You wish advice on specific wines out in stores this week? If you are a traveler I can point you in the right direction, but I cannot take you there. Because as I have stated above, the trip is never over: I will not sell you a postcard so you can say you have been there. You have to get going.

Regards, Yves Ferrand

TALKING BUSINESS

continued from page 20

work for six hours. It's 6 a.m. to midnight some days," said Seamon. The Black Sheep's catering plate is especially full during the holidays and in the spring, when area colleges are bustling with events related to graduations and reunions.

Seamon emphasized that catering doesn't just have to be for traditional celebrations. "People can have a nice dinner party catered for less than they think," he said. "All catering doesn't

have to be a hundred-person, multi-thousand-dollar parties. If someone says to us, 'We'll give you \$30 a person. Come do dinner at our house for ten,' they could get an amazing meal — better than they could get at a restaurant for the price." ★

To contact Myers' Catering call (413) 584-4145; to contact Grand Occasions from Curtis & Schwartz call (413) 586-7565; to contact The Black Sheep Deli & Bakery call (413) 253-3442 or 256-1706.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

continued from page 45

once rejected a similar petition for the Samish Indian Tribe on the ground that its members were not "wild."

In November, in what is believed to be the first-ever relocation of its kind, the contents of a Paris sperm bank were transported by truck about 2.5 miles to new facilities, with the logistical detail reminiscent of the transfer of nuclear materials. The 300,000 sperm samples, frozen in liquid nitrogen, along with several hundred embryos, were insulated against spills and vibrations, and a motorcycle guard assured that the truck, which made four trips, could pass through all traffic signals without stopping.

In August, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed of Malaysia proposed a new caning policy, extending it for the first time to women, who could receive the same non-scarring lashes as problem schoolboys, as punishment for such crimes as illegal immigration.

A former municipal morgue attendant in Brisbane, Australia, told reporters in July that the morgue routinely made available for researchers a variety of organs from corpses without permission from the families of the deceased. In particular, he said the morgue sold pituitary glands collected during the late-1980s for about 50 cents each in order to fund a staff Christmas party last year.

In Brownsville, Texas, in September, Laura Lugo, 27, accused two women of luring her to a Mexican clinic in 1992 when she was 8 1/2 months pregnant, drugging her, arranging for a C-section, and stealing her baby. Paulyna and Rosa Botello, Mexican nationals who were living legally in the U.S., denied the charges and told investigators at various times that each of them was the mother of the child, who is now in a foster home. As part of her lawsuit to gain custody of the child, Lugo submitted to DNA testing, which established a 99 percent likelihood that she is the mother.

Operating like noted police public-relations mascots Officer Friendly and Officer McGruff, a costumed Barry J. Bullet visited kindergartens and day-care centers in suburban Chicago earlier in the year to tell kids, among other things, to hit the floor immediately if they hear gunfire.

As of early 1994, according to the *National Catholic Reporter*, a machine was available to gather sperm for medical purposes that would sidestep the church's two objections to masturbation (direct stimulation of the penis and presence of erotic thoughts). Experimenting with a machine that attaches to and vibrates the testicles, researchers at the University of the Sacred Heart in Rome OKed the device for further tests and eventual commercial use.

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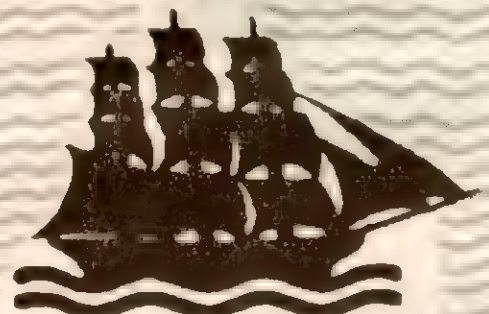
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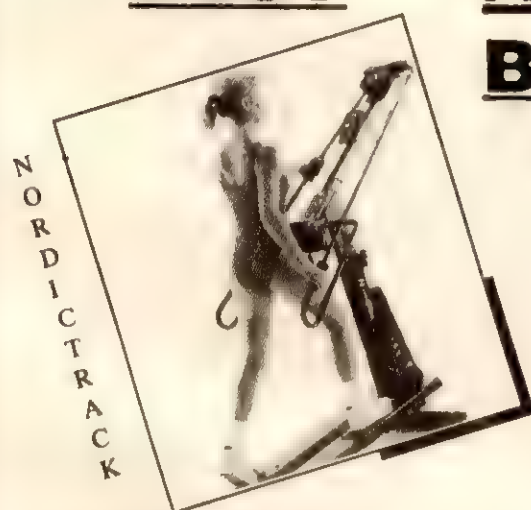
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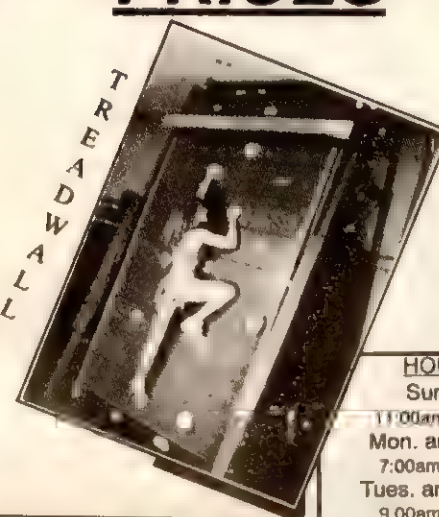
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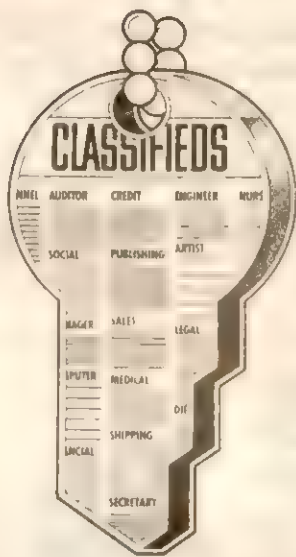
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HEATH Adjacent to pond!! A nice building lot with two per sites. You can choose the best location for your home or camp. \$1,000 bonus to selling agent. \$14,500 (GLF749)

LEVERETT 10 acre parcel. Southern view to Amherst Notch. Total privacy. Area of woods and some of area's most interesting rock formations. Private but not isolated. Part of a six lot private development with lots ranging from 4+ to 20+ acres. Custom home packages available. \$96,000 (AL825)

SUNDERLAND Choice lots on brook and across street from Connecticut river. Sizes range from 3/4 to 1-1/2 acres and prices from \$39,000 to \$44,900. Act now for first choice. There's one to suit your particular needs! Area of fine homes. (GFL555-GFL559)

NORTH AMHERST Building lots in quality neighborhood. Wooded. Town water and sewer. Owner says, "sell." From \$49,000 (AL432-51)

BELCHERTOWN Large 4+ acre wooded lot. Convenient to Amherst and Springfield. Can be combined with 4 acre abutting lot for even larger site or for two homes. \$39,000 (AL551)

Where Butterflies are still free! Create your enchanted cottage on 6.7 acres of fantasy forest in the tranquil hills of **LEVERETT**. Another 4.4 acres available. \$55,000 (AL560)

SOUTH DEERFIELD One of a kind! Estate lot in lovely South Deerfield. Easily accessible to I-91, & Rtes. 5&10. Area of fine homes, possible views of sugarloaf mountain. Woods assure private homesite. Public water. Long Driveway. \$68,900 (GFL658)

SHUTESBURY Combined two parcel building lot with stream and babbling brook. A prime home site perched and ready to build on. \$39,000 (GL636)

HADLEY Great corner lot with high visibility. Terrific location for a wide variety of commercial uses. Permitted for a large gas station. Directly in front of Stop&Shop. \$1,200,000 (AL739)

AMHERST Echo Hill north is the location of this lovely lot in a planned subdivision in an already established neighborhood. On bus route. Beautifully landscaped and private setting high on a hill. \$66,900 (AL739)

AMHERST 8+ acre building lot. Abutts protected land. Open and Wooded. Nice building plateau far back from street. Private but not isolated. Easy commute to Holyoke, Springfield, and Northampton. Bay Road area. Many details. \$125,000 (AL776)

NORTHAMPTON One of the best tracts of land in a gorgeous rural area near apple orchards with some superb views. Potential subdivision for high-end lots! \$250,000 (AL567)

HADLEY commercial, open, 4 acres on route 9, high traffic count, close to I-91. \$680,000 (AL750)

MONTAGUE 1900' frontage -20 acres. Five successful per tests. Gentle slopes and level land. Nicely wooded-large stand of pines. Ideal for multiple homesites or buy and hold for future. \$99,900 (AFL666)

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SOUTH DEERFIELD Values like this one go in a hurry! 1 1/2 baths, den, 2 car garage in choice family neighborhood with views. Don't be sorry tomorrow—call today. **\$133,000 (GF824)**



HADLEY Set on 5 1/2 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds, this immaculate home offers a large entry, spacious stepdown living room, and formal dining room. It also includes 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, an in-ground pool, and 8 person jacuzzi. Call today for your tour. **\$219,000. (A488)**



AMHERST Great view — high on a hill. Classic brick front home with 3/4 bedrooms, 3-car garage. Lower level with private entrance — could be used as office or in-law space. Acre lot with lawn & apple trees set well back from street. Private yard with in-ground pool. **\$259,00 (A522).**



LEVERETT Extraordinary custom designed authentic Colonial set on 1.2 acres of privacy. 4+ bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, studio with view of brook, cherry cabinets, Corian counters. Only 4.5+ mile s from Amherst. **\$359,900 (A657)**



PELHAM-A RARE FIND! Country estate with 30 acres (ultimate in privacy) with fruit trees, waterfalls, & abuts conservation area. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths 1860 Victorian home seeped in history. In-ground, 20 x 40 pool. Walk to Pelham Elementary School. Many special features! **\$340,000 (A347)**



AMHERST 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath Ranch set on a large private, wooded lot at the end of a cul-de-sac. Family neighborhood. Close to bus route. **\$112,900 (A967).**



AMHERST Short walk to the bus from this 3 bedroom home with fully applianced kitchen, living room, dining room, full walkout lower level with finishing possibilities. Garage. Quiet cul-de-sac in family neighborhood. New roof. New carpets. **\$126,000 (A670)**



HATFIELD Charming 2-story Colonial --100 years old-- presently used as a 3-family home but ideal for large single family! Walking distance to center of town. Large lot with attached 2-story shed/garage. Lots of potential. Slate roof. Town water & sewer. **\$134,500 (A671)**



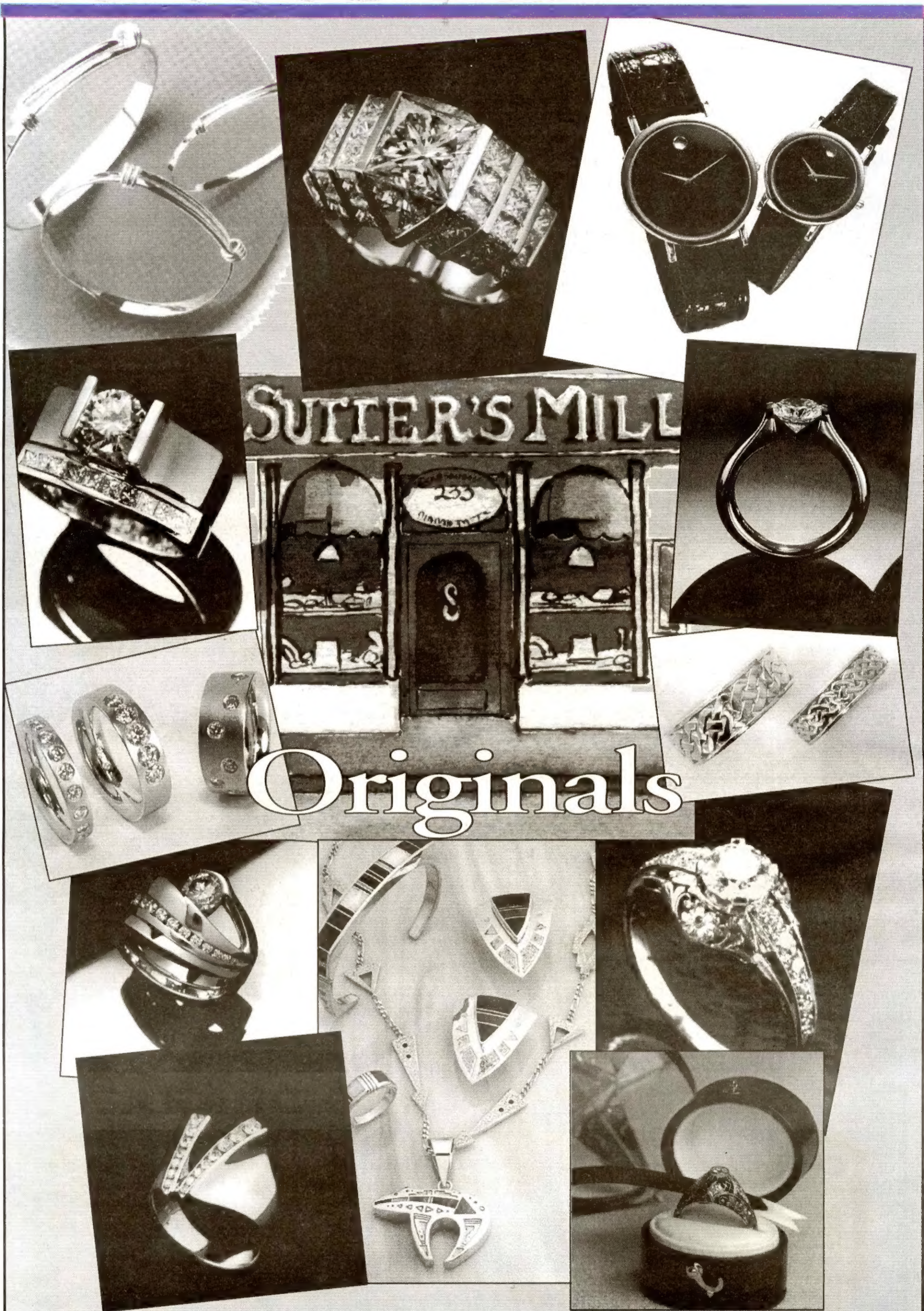
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